

TRIENNIAL REPORT

2023–2026

(Period: 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2026)

PUBLISHED BY :- THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT

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MESSAGE

Message by Honourable the Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, High Court of Gujarat



Three years is a short span in the life of an institution as evolving as the Gujarat Judiciary, yet it is long enough to leave a mark. This Triennial Report chronicles that journey through courtrooms brought closer to people, technology that has begun to change how justice is administered, the quiet work of training the officers who carry the institution forward, and the procedural discipline that keeps it all trustworthy. Together, these three years tell the story of a vibrant institution that has chosen to grow inward as much as outward.

Gujarat Judiciary placed the needs of the litigant at the centre of its approach to access to justice. The District Judiciary disposed of over 62.5 lakh cases, while alternative dispute resolution took on a growing share of disputes before they ever reached a courtroom. Lok Adalats settled 92,95,445 cases with awards of ₹2.2 lakh crore, while mediation centres were established in 118 more Talukas, bringing amicable resolution within reach of far more litigants than before. Special Benches constituted to hear the oldest ready Criminal Appeals against acquittal disposed of 269 matters during the Summer Vacation sittings of 2025 and a further 383 through dedicated Saturday sittings. The newly instituted Wednesday Weekly List also cleared 1,843 of the State's oldest pending matters between 2nd July 2025 and 28th January 2026. Each of these numbers narrowed the distance between citizen and court, and between dispute and resolution.

During this triennium, justice reached people through new infrastructure and stronger, reimagined institutions. New District Court buildings came up at Rajkot, Nadiad and Sabarkantha, along with 27 new Taluka-level Court buildings. Several new and Special courts were established, including 80 Taluka-cluster Family Courts across 32 Districts.

The Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre underwent a fuller transformation. Its Med-Arb Centre was inaugurated in August 2024, combining the harmony of mediation with the finality of arbitration. Its Board of Governors has been strengthened by the representation of the Advocate General and a Designated Senior Advocate, while its panel of Arbitrators has been revised to include Senior Lawyers with extensive experience in commercial matters. The Centre's new logo and website gave this renewed identity its clearest expression. Unveiled alongside the foundation stone laid on 28th February 2026 for the Centre's new building, the logo embodies a modern, human-centric institution for arbitration and mediation.

The Gujarat Judiciary continued to adopt technology to make the dispensation of justice more effective. The High Court framed a Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial and Court Administration, launched the eGujHC Vision Document for End-to-End Paperless Adjudication, and published the NyayShruti Rules to facilitate the use of Audio-Video Electronic means to make court processes faster and more transparent. This technological shift was supported by a substantial expansion of training. In the first half of 2026 alone, the Gujarat State Judicial Academy conducted 71 training programmes for over 15,600 participants, while e-Committee training covered more than 12,500 Judicial Officers and Registry staff. The scale of training ensured that the new technologies were accompanied by the skills needed for their efficient use.

Dignity within the institution's own walls found a meaningful expression in Mitti Café, opened in 2024, to provide livelihood opportunities to persons with disabilities on the High Court campus. The Gender Sensitization and Family Matters Cell brought the same emphasis on dignity and sensitivity to matters of harassment redressal and family welfare, while the year-long PoSH programme, "Ahsaas - Nyay ka Sabke Liye", reached 1,444 officers and employees across the institution. The same institutional care extended to health and well-being, with a Medical Facility with a dedicated Yoga and Wellness Centre, tie-ups with leading medical institutions across Ahmedabad for cashless medical facilities, and insurance cover secured through the State Bank of India for Judges, Judicial Officers and employees of the High Court and District Judiciary.

These three years, measured in lakhs of cases disposed, new courts and centres established, and new policies put in place, are ultimately the work of the Hon'ble Judges, Judicial Officers, Registry staff and members of the Bar whose dedication and consistent efforts have nurtured the institution every day. The Gujarat Judiciary enters the next triennium with gratitude for their contribution and with the resolve to continue making justice swift, accessible and trustworthy for every litigant it serves.

Justice Sunita Agarwal

Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat

COMMITTEE

Hon'ble Members of the "Newsletter-cum-Editorial Board and Souvenir" Committee alongwith the team



1

Hon'ble Committee:

1. Hon'ble Smt. Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati, Chairperson
2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, Member
3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha P. Mayee, Member
4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pranav Trivedi, Member

Registrars:

1. Mr. D. J. Mehta, Registrar (Inspection & Finance)
2. Mr. G. J. Shah, Registrar (SCMS & ICT)

2





3

Members of the Registry:

1. Mr. Dhaivat M. Andhariya, Court Manager
2. Mr. Hardipsinh S. Jhala, Deputy Section Officer
3. Mr. Gaurang M. Tiver, Deputy Section Officer
4. Mr. Pratik N. Nayak, Deputy Section Officer
5. Ms. Fauziya M. Momin, Legal Assistant
6. Mr. Divyajeet J. Gadhavi, Legal Assistant

FOREWORD

From the Desk of the Editorial Board

It is with immense pride and a deep sence of institutional honour that we present the **Triennial Report (July 2023 – June 2026)** of the High Court of Gujarat. Under the visionary stewardship of **Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal,** this period has been distinguished by an unwavering commitment to judicial excellence, unprecedented technological transformation, and significant enhancement of judicial infrastructure across both the High Court and the District Judiciary.

At the heart of this triennium has been a pioneering drive towards technology-enabled, paperless, and citizen-centric justice. Under the leadership of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the Gujarat Judiciary introduced the landmark eGujHC Vision Document for end-to-end paperless adjudication, alongside revolutionary digital platforms such as **SARAS (Statewide Access to Remote Adjudication System)** for NI Act cases and the **Digital Hybrid Hearing Platform for Family Courts** enabling remote adjudication. The integration of an AI-powered bilingual text-to-speech call-out system, digitally signed e-processes on the e-Summons platform, QR-code authenticated eCertified copies, a comprehensive policy on Artificial Intelligence in court administration, and the notification of the Nyayshruti Rules have together established Gujarat as a national frontrunner in modernizing court administration.

Simultaneously, this period marked a historic leap in expanding and upgrading physical infrastructure to meet future requirements. Highlighting this structural growth was the foundation stone laying for the **New 21-Court Building,** an **Additional Administrative Building,** a dedicated **I.T. Cell Building,** and a **Recreational Facility Centre,** alongside the new **State-of-the-Art Building for the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre.** Infrastructure across the District Judiciary was equally transformed through new, state-of-the-art court complexes in Rajkot, Kheda at Nadiad, Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar, and various talukas. Furthermore, campus facilities were enriched through barrier-free accessibility infrastructure for Persons with Disabilities, eco-friendly projects like the Synthetic Walking Track and Miyawaki Forest (Ivan Kavach), and socially inclusive amenities such as Mitti Café and the Med-Arb Centre.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, our Companion Judges, the members of the Registry, the District Judiciary, the Bar, and administrative staff for their collective dedication. We also express our sincere appreciation to Mr. D. J. Mehta, Registrar (Inspection & Finance), Mr. Dhaivat M. Andhariya, Court Manager, Mr. Hardipsinh S. Jhala, Deputy Section Officer, Ms. Fauziya M. Momin and Mr. Divyajeet J. Gadhavi, Legal Assistants for constant efforts in the publication of the Triennial Report. We trust that this Triennial Report stands as a lasting record of our technological achievements and structural advancements, serving as an inspiring blueprint for an accessible, efficient, and future-ready justice delivery system.

Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati
Justice Nikhil S. Kariel
Justice Aniruddha P. Mayee
Justice Pranav Trivedi

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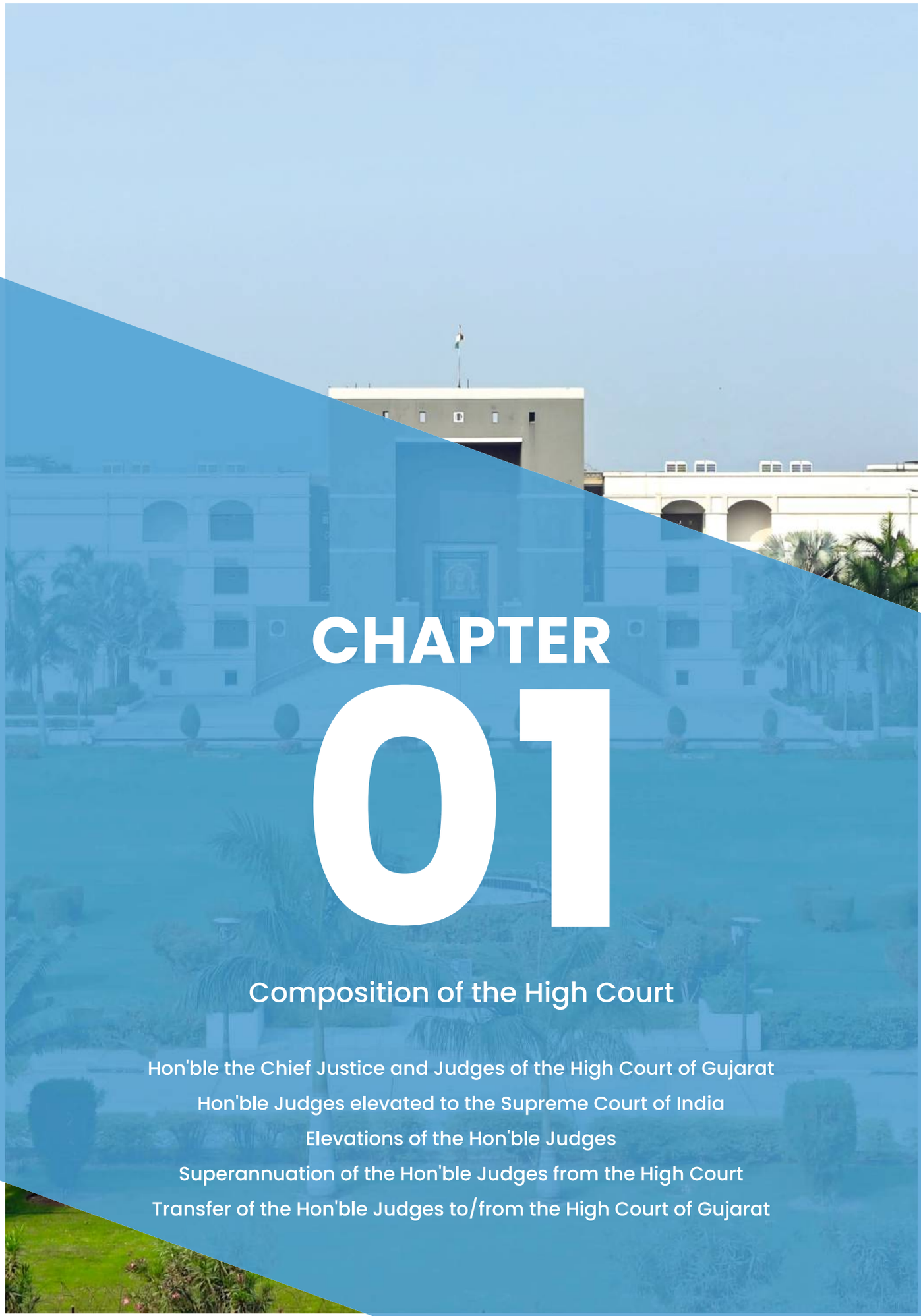
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CHAPTER 01

Composition of the High Court

Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Gujarat

Hon'ble Judges elevated to the Supreme Court of India

Elevations of the Hon'ble Judges

Superannuation of the Hon'ble Judges from the High Court

Transfer of the Hon'ble Judges to/from the High Court of Gujarat

CHAPTER 1

Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Gujarat



The Hon'ble
Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal

The Chief Justice, 23rd July 2023 to till date



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Alpesh Y. Kogje



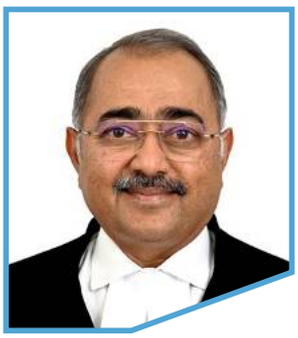
The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice A. S. Supehia



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia



The Hon'ble
Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice N. S. Sanjay Gowda



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justic Ilesh Jashvantrai Vora



The Hon'ble
Ms. Justice Gita Gopi



The Hon'ble
Smt. Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justic Nirzarkumar S. Desai



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Nikhil S. Kariel



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Samir J. Dave

RETIRED ON 27/07/2026



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Hemant M. Prachchhak



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice
Aniruddha P. Mayee



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Niral R. Mehta



The Hon'ble Ms. Justice
Nisha M. Thakore



The Hon'ble
Ms. Justice S. V. Pinto



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Hasmukh D. Suthar



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice J. C. Doshi



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice M. R. Mengdey



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice D. A. Joshi



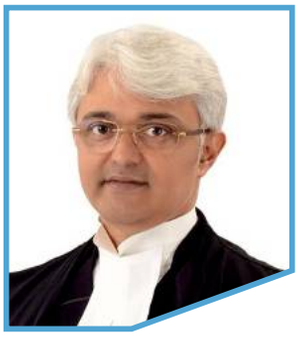
The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice D. M. Desai



The Hon'ble
Mrs. Justice M. K. Thakker



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Vimal K. Vyas



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Pranav Trivedi



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Sanjeev J. Thaker



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice D. N. Ray



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Maulik J. Shelat



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice L. S. Pirzada



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice R. T. Vachhani



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice J. L. Odedra



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice P. M. Raval



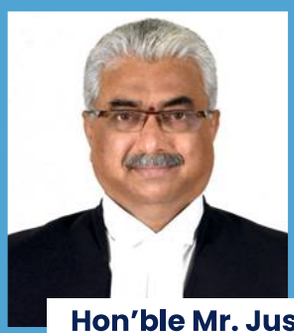
The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice Mool Chand Tyagi



The Hon'ble
Mr. Justice
Utkarsh Thakorbhai Desai

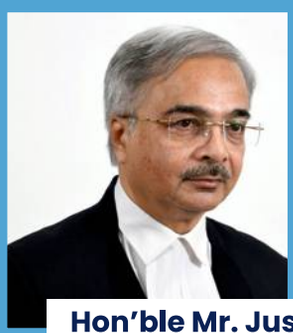
CHAPTER 1

HON'BLE JUDGES ELEVATED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar

- Elevated as the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat on 13/10/2021.
- Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India and assumed charge on 13/02/2023.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Anjaria

- Elevated as Additional Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 21/11/2011 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 06/09/2013.
- Elevated as the Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka on 25/02/2024.
- Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India and assumed charge on 30/05/2025.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul M. Pancholi

- Elevated as Additional Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 01/10/2014 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 10/06/2016.
- Transferred to Patna High Court and took oath as Judge, Patna High Court on 24/07/2023 and became the Chief Justice of Patna High Court on 21/07/2025.
- Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India and assumed charge on 29/08/2025.

ELEVATIONS OF THE HON'BLE JUDGES

Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat Elevated as Chief Justice of the High Courts

- Elevated as Additional Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 17/02/2011 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 28/01/2013.
- Elevated as Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat on 16/02/2023 and retired on 25/02/2023.



Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sonia Gokani



Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. J. Desai

- Elevated as Additional Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 21/11/2011 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 06/09/2013.
- Appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat on 26/02/2023 and was the Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat till 21/07/2023.
- Elevated as Chief Justice of High Court of Kerala on 22/07/2023.

Hon'ble Judge Elevated to the High Court of Gujarat during the year 2023 i.e. from July 2023 to December 2023

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vimal K. Vyas
Elevated on 20/10/2023

Hon'ble Judges Elevated to the High Court of Gujarat during the year 2024

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pranav Trivedi
Elevated on 24/01/2024

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. N. Ray
Elevated on 10/10/2024

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev J. Thaker
Elevated on 10/10/2024

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Maulik J. Shelat
Elevated on 10/10/2024

Hon'ble Judges Elevated to the High Court of Gujarat during the year 2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. S. Pirzada
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mool Chand Tyagi
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. T. Vachhani
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. M. Vyas
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. L. Odedra
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Utkarsh T. Desai
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. M. Raval
Elevated on 05/05/2025

Superannuation Of The Hon'ble Judges From The High Court

Hon'ble Judges superannuated in the year 2024



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Shastri

- Superannuated on 13/01/2024



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra M. Sareen

- Superannuated on 22/03/2024

Hon'ble Judges superannuated in the year 2025



Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. A. Vaishnav

- Superannuated on 21/05/2025



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh A. Trivedi

- Superannuated on 06/10/2025

Hon'ble Judges superannuated in the year 2026 i.e. January to June, 2026



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Mauna M. Bhatt

- Superannuated on 14/01/2026



Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. M. Vyas

- Superannuated on 04/06/2026

Transfer of the Hon'ble Judges to/from the High Court of Gujarat

Hon'ble Judge Transferred to the High Court of Gujarat



Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. S. Sanjay Gowda

- Sworn in as Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 09/06/2025

Hon'ble Judges Transferred from the High Court of Gujarat



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cheekati Manavendranath Roy

- Sworn in as Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 02/11/2023
- Repatriated to parent High Court of Andhra Pradesh and assumed charge on 27/10/2025



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep N. Bhatt

- Elevated as Judge, High Court of Gujarat on 18/10/2021
- Transferred and assumed charge as Judge, Madhya Pradesh High Court on 04/11/2025

CHAPTER 02

Institutional Governance

Hon'ble Administrative Committees of the High Court of Gujarat

Registry of the High Court of Gujarat

State Law Officers

Hon'ble Administrative Committees of the High Court of Gujarat

SR. NO.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEE
1	Standing Committee comprising of: 1. Hon'ble the Chief Justice 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Y. Kogje 3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Supehia 4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia 5. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen 6. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. S. Sanjay Gowda 7. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ilesh J. Vora
2	Screening Committee for Judicial Officers
3	Committee for recruitment of District Judges [Direct Recruitment & by way of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination]
4	Committee for selection of Civil Judges AND Committee for promotion of Civil Judges to the cadre of Senior Civil Judges [By way of regular promotion & Limited Departmental Competitive Examination] AND Committee for promotion of Senior Civil Judges to the cadre of District Judges [By way of regular promotion]
5	Juvenile Justice Committee
6	Committee for Litigation and vetting of Charge Sheets
7	High Court Building Committee
8	'Rule' Committee [C.P.C.] & Committee to suggest modification to Civil and Criminal Manual
9	Gujarat High Court Rules Committee & District Judiciary Rules Committee
10	Central Recruitment Committee for Officers and staff of High Court and District Judiciary

11	Computer & Technology, Digitalisation, e-Filing and Paper-less Court, live streaming, Artificial Intelligence, CCTV (High Court) & Subordinate Courts), eCourts Project & all I.T. related subjects (except purchase)
12	Digitalisation – Sub Committee (of disposed off cases) of High Court and District Courts
13	Promotion to the post of Special Officer, Additional Registrar (IT), System Manager, System Analyst, System Administrator (IT Cell), System Officer, Technical Assistant-cum-Programmer and System Engineer
14	Committee for Inter District Transfer of Ministerial Staff [Clerical Grade & Group D Staff of District Judiciary] namely, Class III & Class IV in the State of Gujarat
15	Library Committee
16	Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) [To deal with complaints under PoSH Act, 2013, regarding Judicial Officers in the State as well as any women in the High Court]
17	Infrastructure Facilities to District & Taluka Courts OR District Judiciary Infrastructure Committee & Committee for Establishment, abolition and alteration of jurisdiction of Courts
18	Arrears of cases and Case Flow Monitoring Committee

19	Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Resolutions passed in the Chief Justice Conference and for submitting progress report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court AND Monitoring District Judiciary regarding mandates and ensuring the implementation of the decisions / directions issued by Apex Court
20	Protocol, Hospitality & maintenance of vehicles of High Court, including Medical Protocol & Committee dealing with Issues of Media Persons attending the High Court
21	Security Committee - High Court and District Courts
22	Assured Career Progression Committee – Senior Civil Judges and Civil Judges
23	Committee for Sensitization of Family Courts
24	Purchase, Budget, Finance, Stores Committee
25	Medical Committee
26	Museum & Archive, Heritage Committee
27	Promotion to the post of Additional Registrar, Secretaries to Honourable the Chief Justice, Principal Private Secretary, Senior Protocol Officer, Deputy Registrar, Deputy Registrar (PS Cell), Assistant Registrar / Court Master, Librarian and Private Secretary on the establishment of High Court
28	Promotion to the post of Section Officer, Deputy Section Officer, Senior Translator, Telephone Operator and Assistant Commissioner for Taking Accounts on the establishment of High Court

29	Promotion to the post of Air Condition Plant Operator, Chauffeur, Book Binder, Usher, Ceremonial Assistant, Security Supervisor, Senior Lawn Attendant, Judicial Process Assistant and Office Assistant-cum-Clerk on the establishment of High Court
30	Grievance Redressal Committee
31	All subjects relating to Court Manager (Except Recruitment)
32	To regulate and monitoring the progress of the trials under POCSO Act with PC/PNDT Act
33	To "Supervise and monitor progress made by the State of Gujarat to the compliance regarding storage facility of seized narcotic drugs and psychotropic and controlled substances and conveyances" as per direction issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Judgment dated 28/01/2016 passed in Criminal Appeal No. 652 of 2012
34	State Court Management System Committee as part of objectives of NFCE (National Framework of Court Excellence) of National Court Management System (NCMS)
	SUB COMMITTEE:
	To revisit and revamp the Norms for disposal prescribed by the High Court for Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary of the State AND To consider modification of A.C.R. and to make suggestions for consideration of the Uniform Annual Confidential Reports, recommended in the baseline report on Human Resource Development Strategy of the NCMSC

35	To consider (i) letter dated 27/01/2017 of the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice, New Delhi, forwarding therewith Judgment dated 02/01/2017 delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Criminal Appeal No.254-262 of 2012 in the case of Imtiaz Ahmad Vs. State of U.P. & Ors. alongwith the copy of Report submitted by the Member Secretary NCMS Committee vide letter dated 01/04/2016 and (ii) letter dated 18/02/2017 of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Government of India, New Delhi, qua follow up action to determine the required Judge strength in the Subordinate Courts of the State
36	Allotment of Advocate Chambers
37	Maintenance of Parks and Garden
38	Creche House in High Court
39	Committee for appointment of panel Chartered Accountant for audit of half yearly statements of account filed by the Official Liquidator attached to Gujarat High Court
40	Mediation Monitoring Committee
41	Committee for verification and acceptance of Date of Birth of Judicial Officers
42	Committee to consider application for Withdrawal / Advance from G.P.F. of Class-I Officers of the High Court establishment

43	Committee for recommending Agencies for Scrutiny of applications filed for permission to take Children in Adoption under the The Guardians And Wards Act, 1890
44	Committee for Selection of Law Clerks / Legal Assistants
45	Committee for Newsletter – cum – Editorial Board and Souvenir
46	Committee for monitoring the functioning of Commercial Courts
47	Committee to reconsider High Court and District Courts Staffing patterns and relating aspects such as, Staff Strength of various cadres
48	Special Committee for approval of High Court Calender and to fix the period of vacation for High Court and also District and Trial Courts in the State
49	Committee constituted for preparing a Draft Scheme to be executed by Courts in the State of Gujarat relating to expeditious disposal of Cases under The Negotiable Instruments Act and The Prohibition Act
50	Committee for Monitoring the implementation and use of Gujarati Language in the District Judiciary of the State
51	Committee to consider representation made by English Stenographers (Grade-II), Private Secretaries / Principal Private Secretaries and the Gujarat High Court Gazetted and Non-Gazetted Employees' Association requesting therein, to remove pay anomalies and revise their pay scales
52	High Court Level Monitoring Committee to review the physical and financial progress of the construction of Court Halls, Toilet Complexes, Digital Computer Rooms and Residential Units for Judicial Officers in the State, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, only

53	AI assisted Translation Monitoring Committee
54	Committee to consider the objections received from Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judge, Senior Civil Judge and Civil Judge against the proposed seniority list uploaded on the High Court website
55	High Court Medical Facility Committee for Staff and other Stakeholders
56	Review Committee for monitoring statistics regarding proper execution of summons in time bound manner in District Judiciary of the State
57	Accessibility Committee for High Court
58	Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary
59	To frame the guidelines / criteria and to consider for grant of Selection Grade and Super Time Scale to District Judges
60	Committee for distribution of posts of District Judiciary along with the attendant staff
61	To consider the disposal of all type of waste / scrap items, including I.T. related items, being accumulated on the establishment of High Court
62	To deal with the proposals received from all the Principal Judicial Officers of the State, for approval of selection to the Class-I posts, as laid down in Rule-27 of 'The Non-Judicial Officers and Staff of the Courts (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2017' & in Rule-28 of 'The Industrial Courts and Labour Courts (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of the Non-Judicial Officers and Staff) Rules,2018'
63	63Committee for establishment of Coordination Center at the High Court of Gujarat for effective execution of Bailable Warrant and Non-bailable Warrant in the old and critically old Criminal matters

64	"Empowering Authority" under Commissioner of Oaths for the High Court of Gujarat Rules, 2024
65	Committee to consider representation made against adverse remarks which is otherwise placed before Honourable the Chief Justice
66	E-Guj HCR Committee
67	Committee for formulating policy / guidelines for treating the pensioner family member of Honourable Judge of the High Court of Gujarat as 'dependent' for the purpose of reimbursement of medical expenses
68	Committee to formulate a comprehensive plan, carry out the tasks mentioned in the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 15/01/2025, passed in Writ Petition © No. 538 of 2023 in the case of Rajeeb Kalita Vs. Union of India & Ors
69	Committee for allotment of government quarters, which are earmarked for High Court of Gujarat, to the Judicial Officers who are posted in Ahmedabad City
70	Committee for implementation, execution and monitoring of paperless Court, vision document 1.2 e-Guj HC
71	Committee for the purpose of reverting to the old practice of conducting trials on a day to day basis more particularly in important or sensitive cases for the benefit of District Judiciary. (In compliance of the directions issued by the Honourable Supreme Court of India in para 35 of the Order dated 22.09.2025 in Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 969 of 2025 in the case of the Central Bureau of Investigation V/s. Mir Usman @ Ara @ Mir Usman Ali)

72	Committee for evolving some procedure and guide the District Judiciary for effective and expeditious disposal of the execution petitions which are pending as on date. (In compliance of the directions issued by the Honourable Supreme Court of India in para 14 of the Order dated 16.10.2025 in Miscellaneous Application No. 1889-1891 of 2025 in the case of "Periyammal (Dead) through Lrs & Ors Vs. Rajamani & Anr")
73	Committee to review the existing system of filling up the Annual Confidential Reports physically and to consider filling and submission of the Annual Confidential Reports by the Reporting Authority and review thereof by Reviewing Authority only in digital mode and to appropriately modify, delete or add the questionnaires in the existing Annual Confidential Reports or completely recast the existing ACR forms of the staff all cadres working on the establishment of the High Court of Gujarat



Registry of the High Court of Gujarat

Judicial Officers deputed in the High Court of Gujarat

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1	Mr. S. D. Suthar	Registrar General & I/c. Registrar (Vigilance)
2	Mr. N. D. Joshi	Registrar (Administration)
3	Mr. Prashant Jain	Registrar (Recruitment) & I/c. Registrar (Legal, Law & Inquiry)
4	Mr. P. S. Dave	Registrar (Judicial)
5	Mr. D. J. Mehta	Registrar (Inspection & Finance)
6	Mr. G. J. Shah	Registrar (SCMS & ICT)
7	Mr. M. B. Rathore	Additional Registrar (Judicial)
8	Mr. A. N. Patel	Special Officer (on order to work basis) Work with Registrar (SCMS & ICT) and at Digitization and Scanning Centre
9	Mr. Z. A. Sindhi	Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee
10	Mr. A. P. Goswami	Commissioner for Taking Accounts, Ahmedabad

Judicial Officers deputed in Gujarat State Judicial Academy

1	Mr. Rohen K. Chudawala	Director
2	Mr. A. P. Randhir	Deputy Director
3	Mr. V. K. Solanki	Assistant Director
4	Mr. M. S. Amlani	Assistant Director

Judicial Officers deputed in Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre

1	Mr. R. H. Prajapati	Director
2	Ms. P. K. Dave	Deputy Director

Judicial Officers deputed in Gujarat State Legal Services Authority

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1	Ms. H. M. Pavar	Member Secretary
2	Mrs. A. A. Vyas	Joint Secretary
3	Mr. B. S. Gadhvi	Project Officer
4	Mr. M. A. Piprani	Project Officer

Judicial Officers deputed in Legal Department

1	Mr. Upendra M. Bhatt	Secretary
2	Mr. H. H. Varma	Joint Secretary
3	Mr. A. K. Gohil	Under Secretary

State Law Officers

Sr. No.	Designation
1	Shri Kamal Trivedi, Advocate General
2	Smt. Manisha Lavkumar Shah, Additional Advocate General
3	Shri Gursharan H. Virk, Government Pleader
4	Shri Hardik Dave, Public Prosecutor

CHAPTER 03

Institutional Achievements and Activities

Administrative Reforms and Policy Measures

Statutory Committees of the High Court of Gujarat

State and National Conferences / Judicial Events

Events/Functions & Initiatives of the High Court of Gujarat

Administrative Reforms and Policy Measures

Case Flow Monitoring:

Under the directions of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, **the High Court undertook targeted measures to reduce pendency and ensure timely adjudication across diverse categories of cases.** Between June and August 2023, two Hon'ble Courts disposed of 253 bail cancellation applications, while pursuant to the order dated 11 July 2023, the oldest 1,105 criminal revisions up to 2015 were specially assigned to six Hon'ble Judges, resulting in the disposal of 174 cases by April 2024. Similarly, following the order dated 18 April 2023, 600 criminal quashing matters and 50 civil matters were allocated, with 373 criminal quashing and 8 civil cases disposed of. In addition, pursuant to the order dated 10 July 2023, 104 low-value insurance appeals were listed before two Hon'ble Courts, of which 98 were resolved, ensuring timely disposal of small claims. During the Summer Vacation 2024, Judicial Officers, Court Manager, and staff identified 260 criminal miscellaneous applications and 30 appeals from order, which were listed before the Hon'ble Court, leading to the disposal of 257 criminal matters and 28 appeals. Collectively, these initiatives reflect the High Court's commitment to systematic case flow management, efficiency, and timely justice.

Online Request for Early Listing of Matters (01/09/2023):

Introduced an online facility for advocates to request early listing of matters, with automated SMS and email notifications to all concerned parties, replacing the earlier slip-based system.

Methodology for Ensuring Next Listing Date in All Pending Cases (01/09/2023):

With effect from 01.09.2023, a methodology approved by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges of the Standing Committee ensures that every adjourned pending matter is assigned a future listing date. Where no future date is updated on the day of adjournment, the system automatically generates and allots the next listing date. Matters are categorized as **Critically Old Cases** (over 10 years), **Old Cases** (over 5 and up to 10 years), and **Not So Old Cases** (up to 5 years), with criteria for system-generated dates prescribed accordingly.

Hybrid Hearing (29/09/2023):

Expanded Hybrid Hearing to all Benches of the High Court with seamless virtual participation through published VC links and simplified access in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Mechanism for Effective Implementation of Rule 9 of the Case Flow Management Rules:

To ensure effective implementation of Rule 9 of the Gujarat High Court Case Flow Management Rules, 2016, a mechanism was prescribed for advance service of petitions, Letters Patent Appeals and applications seeking relief against the Government, Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations, Local Bodies and Authorities. The mechanism provides for advance service of copies to the concerned Panel Advocates/Counsels within the prescribed 48/72-hour period, either by hand or through e-mail, along with all annexures, with necessary proof and details of the recipient. The Registry was directed to publish the details of authorized Panel Advocates/Counsels on the High Court website and notice board, raise an optional office objection where advance service is not effected, and record the name of the Advocate/Counsel receiving the advance copy. Such name, or that of any authorized Counsel, is thereafter reflected in the cause list at the first hearing to facilitate effective representation before the Court.

Targeted Case Management and Expeditious Disposal:

Pursuant to judicial directions, the High Court undertook focused measures to address specialized categories of cases. On 28 June 2024, 803 criminal quashing matters involving matrimonial disputes were listed, of which 402 were resolved, demonstrating sensitivity and efficiency in family-related adjudication. Further, by order dated 12 February 2024, 66 insurance appeals filed by Insurance Companies were specially assigned to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, resulting in the disposal of 59 appeals within the month, ensuring swift resolution of financial claims. Collectively, these initiatives highlight the High Court's commitment to timely justice, specialized case management, and responsiveness to family and financial disputes.

Special Bench for adjudication of Oldest ready Criminal Appeals (Acquittal):

Under the guidance and directions of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Special Benches comprising Division and Single Judge Benches were constituted to adjudicate the oldest ready Criminal Appeals (Acquittal) filed by the State Government against acquittal orders.

- **Summer Vacation Sittings (12 May – 6 June 2025)** - Disposed of 269 oldest ready Criminal Appeals (Acquittal) during dedicated vacation sittings.
- **Saturday Sittings (1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026)** - Further disposed of 383 oldest ready Criminal Appeals (Acquittal) through special sittings held on working Saturdays.

Wednesday Weekly List (WWL):

In a joint effort, the SCMS and Arrears Committees, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, undertook targeted measures to reduce arrears and ensure systematic case disposal. To accelerate progress, a Wednesday Weekly List (WWL) was introduced as a dedicated "Targeted Matters Hearing Day," formalized by Notice No. RJ/13/2025 dated 21 June 2025, under which 2,495 oldest matters were disposed of since its inception to 30th June 2026.

Adoption of the Action Plan for Arrears Reduction Model of the Hon'ble Supreme Court:

The SCMS and Arrears Committees under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Justice also resolved to adopt the Supreme Court's Model Action Plan for Arrears Reduction, with local modifications, prepared on 3rd July 2025 and approved by the Standing Committee on 31st July 2025. Additionally, pursuant to the Chief Justice's order dated 8th December 2025, physical verification of pending matters commenced on 23rd December 2025 using a digital tool developed by the I.T. Cell to reconcile data with CIS and NJDG. Collectively, these initiatives reflect the High Court's commitment to systematic arrears reduction, technological integration, and timely justice delivery. The below table shows Targeted Cases disposed of by the High Court of Gujarat and District Judiciary of the State since its inception to 30th June 2026:

Sr. No.	Name of Court	No. of targeted cases disposed of
1	APaR-HC	4,676
2	APaR-DJ	1,46,854

Health and Wellness Initiatives:

- **Mega Medical & Blood Donation Camp (26 January 2024)** - Organized during the 75th Republic Day celebrations, providing comprehensive medical examinations and diagnostics to nearly 450 beneficiaries. The camp also collected 31 units of blood, reflecting collective participation and social responsibility.
- **Week-long Eye & Dental Check-up Camp (1–8 February 2024)** - Conducted within the High Court premises, benefitting approximately 700 participants. A team of experienced ophthalmologists and dentists provided preventive care and diagnostic services.

- **Women's Health Awareness & Screening -** Under the guidance of The Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, and the Hon'ble Judges of the Medical Facility Committee, the High Court Medical Facility, in collaboration with GCRI, organized a Cervical and Breast Cancer Awareness Camp (16 March 2024). This was followed by a week-long Screening Camp (21–28 March 2024), benefitting nearly 4,000 women employees across the High Court and District Judiciary.

- **Menopause Awareness Programme (4 June 2024) -** Organized at the High Court under the direction of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, with initiative proposed by Ms. Nipa C. Raval, Registrar (Inspection & Finance). Approximately 150 female officers and employees benefitted from this program, which promoted awareness and support for women's health.

- **Cashless Medical Facilities Agreements -** To strengthen healthcare support for Hon'ble Judges, Judicial Officers, staff, and their families, the High Court executed agreements and MoUs with seven hospitals in Ahmedabad in August 2024. These agreements ensure free and cashless access to specialized and super-specialized healthcare services, reflecting the High Court's commitment to welfare and well-being.

  In a significant step towards strengthening institutional healthcare support, the High Court of Gujarat, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal and the esteemed guidance of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court Medical Facility Committee, initiated a landmark healthcare welfare programme during the first quarter of 2026. As part of this endeavour, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was executed with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science and Research (SVPIMSR) Hospital to provide cashless specialty and super-specialty medical services to Hon'ble Judges, Judicial Officers, High Court staff members, and their dependent family members.

  Further strengthening this healthcare initiative, the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat extended its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the U. N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre (UNMICRC), Gandhinagar on 23rd April, 2026. The extended MoU ensures the continued availability of cashless cardiac and super-specialty medical services, enabling seamless access to quality healthcare for Hon'ble Judges, Judicial Officers, High Court staff members, and their dependent family members residing in Gandhinagar. These initiatives reaffirm the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat's steadfast commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare support and promoting the well-being of the High Court fraternity through sustained institutional collaboration.

- **Comprehensive Medical Check-up and Health Awareness Programme:**

  Under the directions of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, and the High Court Medical Facility Committee, a six-day Comprehensive Medical Check-up and Health Awareness Programme was organized from 15–20 December 2025 for Hon'ble Judges, Advocates, Judicial Officers, employees, and their families. The camp included ophthalmology, dental, diabetes, and blood pressure screenings, benefitting 958 participants in eye check-ups, 597 in dental examinations, and 1,073 in diabetes and blood pressure screenings. On 18 December 2025, a Heart–Kidney–Liver Health Awareness Camp was conducted with expert lectures by leading specialists, attended by over 400 participants, focusing on preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle practices. The programme concluded with a Blood Donation Camp on 20 December 2025, collecting 63 units of blood with the support of U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre. Successfully conducted with the cooperation of premier medical institutions, the initiative significantly advanced preventive healthcare, early diagnosis, and health awareness among members of the High Court fraternity.

Memorandum of Understanding with State Bank of India under the State Government Salary Package:

Under the guidance of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was executed with the State Bank of India on 30th March, 2026 for extending the benefits available under the State Government Salary Package (SGSP) to the Officers and Employees of the High Court of Gujarat. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court continue to be covered under the Central Government Salary Package (CGSP), whereas the Officers and Employees of the High Court are covered under the SGSP.

Subsequently, on 29th June, 2026, a separate MoU was executed with the State Bank of India for extending the benefits of the SGSP to all Judicial Officers and employees serving in the District Judiciary and other establishments under the High Court of Gujarat. While the SGSP offers a range of banking and financial benefits, the execution of these MoUs ensures, inter alia, the provision of Group Term Life Insurance Cover of ₹10 lakh and Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) Cover of ₹1 crore to the eligible beneficiaries.



Energy Efficient and Safe Building Survey held during July to October 2024:

The Energy Efficient and Safe Building Initiative (EESB), conceived by the High Court Building Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, is a unique initiative integrating energy efficiency with electrical, fire and building safety in the High Court campus. The initiative focuses on thermal comfort, indoor air quality, drinking water, lighting, electrical safety and fire safety. Pursuant to the directions of the High Court Building Committee, the Executive Engineer, High Court Electrical Division, undertook a comprehensive audit of the High Court building from July to October 2024. The study included site inspections, collection of preliminary data, assessment of energy consumption, review of fire safety preparedness, electrical safety, water conservation and safety practices within the campus. The audit has laid down a roadmap for improving energy conservation, reducing electricity consumption, strengthening fire and electrical safety measures, and promoting efficient use of water. The initiative is expected to serve as a model for similar audits in other court buildings across the State.

Formulation of comprehensive plan and carry out the tasks as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 15/01/2025, passed inWrit Petition (C) No. 538 of 2023 in the case of Rajeeb Kalita Vs. Union of India & Ors.:

In compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 15 January 2025 in Rajeeb Kalita v. Union of India & Ors., the High Court of Gujarat constituted a dedicated Committee vide Notification No. A.2621/2022 dated 4 February 2025, chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Supehia with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nikhil S. Kariel as Co-Chairman, to frame a comprehensive plan for inclusive and gender-sensitive infrastructure. Pursuant to directions mandating separate toilet facilities for males, females, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities, the Committee sought detailed inputs from all District Judiciary, Labour Courts, and Industrial Courts, identified infrastructure gaps, and directed preparation of a time-bound action plan covering construction and renovation of washrooms, installation of ramps, provision of sanitary pad dispensers, standardized signage, and outsourcing of maintenance. The plan, approved by the Hon'ble Building Committee on 30 July 2025, was circulated to Principal Judicial Officers for phased execution and forwarded to the Roads & Buildings and Legal Departments for coordination with the Finance Department. Additionally, local committees comprising judicial officers, bar members, and staff were mandated to oversee facilities, address complaints, and fix responsibilities, with each court premises required to nominate a Nodal Officer for monitoring and compliance. Collectively, these measures reflect the High Court's commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and dignified infrastructure for all stakeholders.

Statutory Committees of the High Court of Gujarat

Achievements of the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee

Between July 2023 and June 2026, the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Gujarat High Court, functioning as a statutory body under Hon'ble Supreme Court directions, has consistently demonstrated leadership in advancing child protection. Its consultations and collaborations have strengthened restorative justice, disability inclusion, and safeguarding of the girl child, ensuring convergence of judicial, governmental, and civil society efforts toward a safer and more equitable environment for children.

Year 2023

- The Hon'ble High Court Juvenile Justice Committee had organized the 8th State Level Consultation on Child Protection with Specific focus on "Children in Conflict with Law: Prevention, Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Detention" on 5th August 2023.

- Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. A. Vaishnav, the then Chairperson of Juvenile Justice Committee along with Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen, Member of the JJC had participated in a two-days "National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child in Conflict with Law (Focus on Prevention, Restoration Justice and Diversion and Alternatives to Detention)", which was held on 23rd – 24th September 2023 at the Supreme Court Auditorium, 3rd floor, C-Block, Additional Building Complex, in association with UNICEF-India.

Year 2024

- 17th July 2024: For the preparation to hold State Level Consultation of High Court Juvenile Justice Committee as directed by the Hon'ble Ms. Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee (Comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. A. Vaishnav, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen and Ms. Justice Gita Gopi) of this High Court had conducted a "formative consultation on Children living with disabilities" with Civil Society Organizations at Conference Hall of Gujarat State legal Services Authority.

  This preliminary discussion with Civil Society Organizations and the Nodal Department for Disability was critical to comprehend the issues of persons / Children with Disability (CwD) in general, leading to further focus on its intersections with Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act and other forms of vulnerabilities.
  In preliminary discussion various Recommendations were made on following points:
  a) Multi sectorial collaboration and coordination to ensure widespread awareness of support available for CwDs/PwDs.
  b) Strengthening Awareness about disability rights and available support schemes as well as awareness on 21 types of disability included in the RPwD Act.
  c) Capacity Building
  d) Re-purposing Infrastructure
  e) Systematic Data Collection
  f) Inclusive Education
  g) Accessibility Focus
  h) Reviewing the Legislative procedures
  I) Legislative reforms

- The consultation was a significant preliminary step towards creating a more just and equitable environment for CwD in the State, specially focusing on children within the ambit of the J.J. Act. The emphasis on working together, fostering collaboration, improving accessibility, and enhancing awareness, stakeholders were guided to transform these discussions into tangible action.

- The Hon'ble High Court Juvenile Justice Committee had organized State Level Consultation on the "Rights of the Children living with Disabilities and its intersections with Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act" on 10/08/2024 at the Seminar Hall, Auditorium of Gujarat High Court.
  The primary objective of the consultation was to bring together various stakeholders to discuss and address the specific needs and rights of children living with disabilities, particularly in the context of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012 (POCSO Act). The consultation also helped in:
  - Reviewing the current efforts and measures implemented by the state for Children with disabilities, both those in need of care and protection (CNCP) and those in conflict with the law (CCL).
  - Identifying Gaps and Challenges in the implementation of the JJ Act and POCSO Act concerning children with disabilities, and understanding the unique challenges faced by this vulnerable group.
  - Formulating actionable recommendations and strategies to enhance the protection and rights of children with disabilities, ensuring their well-being and Justice.
  - Fostering a collaborative environment where representatives from various sectors shared insights, experiences and best practices.
  - Review of data and progress on actions and measures taken towards adopting diversionary practices and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law.

  The participants of the consultation included the Hon'ble Judges of High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Government Officials from concerned Departments (Social Justice & Empowerment, Health, Education, Women & Child Development, Disability Commissionerate, Home etc.), Principal Magistrates of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Chairmen of Child Welfare Committees, Members of NGOs and Sector practitioners.

Year 2025

- **5th August 2025:** For preparation to hold State Level Consultation of High Court Juvenile Justice Committee as directed by the Hon'ble Ms. Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee had held a State Level Pre-Consultation meet with the respective Secretaries of State specifically Ministry of Women and Child Development, State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Ministry of Health Department, Education Department and other Departments of the State Government working for Child development and Protection to enable the concerned Government department to identify their roles and responsibilities in achieving the shared objective of creating a safer and more enabling environment for girl child, at Gujarat State Legal Services Authority.

- **30th August 2025:** Further, the Hon'ble Committee had organized a Half Day Consultation with Civil Society Organizations (CSO's-NGOs) on their experiences on addressing child marriage, trafficking and violence with the following objectives:

- Inclusive, gender-sensitive child protection response systems
- Legal mechanisms and their effectiveness
- Integrated service delivery with strong data and case management
- Prevention strategies, including community and parenting programs
- Oversight and accountability frameworks

- **The said Consultation was attended by the following CSOs:**

  (1) Prayas, Ahmedabad; (2) Uthhan, Ahmedabad; (3) Action Aid, Ahmedabad; (4) Pochabhai Foundation, Anand; (5) Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Ahmedabad; (6) Shaishav Trust, Bhavnagar; (7) Chetna, Ahmedabad; (8) Sauhard, Ahmedabad; (9) Kuteer Foundation Chuwal Trust, Ahmedabad; (10) Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Bhuj; and (11) Institute for Social Action and Research, Kutch.

- **7th September 2025:** In accordance with the theme of National level Consultation to be organized by the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee of Supreme Court of India on "Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for her in India", the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee of this High Court had organized a State Consultation on "Safeguarding the Girl Child Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for her in Gujarat" with the aim of fostering coordinated and convergent action across the Child Protection, Education, Health, and Justice Systems to build a safe and enabling environment for every girl.

The consultation was focused into the following areas:

- Inclusive, gender-sensitive child protection response systems
- Legal mechanisms and their effectiveness
- Integrated service delivery with strong data and case management
- Prevention strategies, including community and parenting programs
- Oversight and accountability frameworks

- The participants of the consultation included the Hon'ble Judges of High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, Government Officials from concerned Departments (Social Justice & Empowerment, Health & Family Welfare, Education, Women & Child Development, CID – Crime, Mahila Cell & Missing Cell Disability Commissionerate, Home etc., Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Labour Department, Department of Triable affairs etc.), Judicial Officers presiding over POCSO Courts, Principal Magistrates of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Chairman of Child Welfare Committees, Members of NGOs and UNICEF-Gujarat.
- Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen, Chairperson of Juvenile Justice Committee along with Hon'ble Smt. Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Utkarsh T. Desai (in capacity as Hon'ble Member of JJC and POCSO Committee, respectively) had participated in a Two-day National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on 'Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for her in India' which was held on 11th – 12th October 2025 at the Supreme Court Auditorium, New Delhi.

Achievements of the Hon'ble Internal Complaint Committee

The primary objective of the Committee is to effectively address complaints relating to workplace harassment while fostering a culture of dignity, respect, and equality within the institution. The Committee also endeavours to promote gender sensitivity and awareness among all stakeholders associated with the High Court, thereby strengthening an environment that is safe, inclusive, and conducive to professional integrity and mutual respect.

Key Initiatives and Activities:

- **Display Boards Across the High Court Premises**
  - This initiative ensures that employees and stakeholders have continuous and easy access to information regarding their rights and the mechanisms available for redressal.



To enhance accessibility to important information, display boards have been installed at various locations within the High Court premises. These boards prominently feature essential details about the Internal Complaints Committee, including contact information, procedures for lodging complaints, and resources available for guidance and support.

- **Installation of Complaint Boxes**
  - The initiative aims to encourage individuals to raise concerns without fear of retaliation and to foster an atmosphere of trust and transparency.

As part of efforts to create a secure and confidential reporting mechanism, complaint boxes have been installed at multiple locations within the High Court premises. These boxes provide employees with a discreet and accessible means to submit grievances related to workplace harassment.



Dedicated ICC Webpage:

A dedicated webpage has been developed to serve as a comprehensive digital resource for all matters related to the Internal Complaints Committee. The webpage provides information regarding the Committee's roles and functions, relevant policies, and the procedure for submitting complaints.



Accomplishments of the Internal Complaints Committee:

The Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) (formerly the Internal Complaints Committee) of the High Court of Gujarat has continued to effectively discharge its statutory responsibilities under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, while also promoting gender sensitization and a safe, inclusive workplace. Between July 2023 and June 2026, the Committee registered and inquired into ten (10) complaints, including those pertaining to Judicial Officers in the State and women working in the High Court. Of these, eight (08) complaints have been concluded and two (02) complaints are presently under inquiry in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Throughout the reporting period, the Committee ensured that every complaint was handled with fairness, confidentiality, and due process, thereby safeguarding the dignity and rights of all stakeholders. The Committee's proactive approach towards prompt redressal, institutional strengthening, and gender sensitization has significantly reinforced a safe, respectful, and inclusive working environment across the judicial institution.

- **Implementation of Supreme Court Guidelines:**
  In compliance with Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa & Ors. (Civil Appeal No. 2482 of 2014), the High Court circulated the judgment to all District Judges. A video conference was held on 20th March 2025 with Principal District Judges and ICC members across the State to review directions and ensure strict compliance. District Courts were directed to conduct awareness programs accordingly.

- **Awareness and Capacity-Building Programs**
  - "Ehsas – Nyaay Ka Sabke Liye" Workshop: A one-day gender sensitization program for High Court employees, attended by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, Hon'ble Judges, and academic experts.
  - Sharing of Best Practices: Lectures on gender sensitization delivered by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Mauna M. Bhatt and Hon'ble Ms. Justice S.V. Pinto to Civil Judges from Odisha at the Gujarat State Judicial Academy.
  - Year-long Training Program: Commenced on 19th May 2025, implemented through the GSFM Cell in coordination with GSLSA and GSJA, covering staff and outsourced personnel.
  - Judicial Training Integration: Gender sensitization sessions included in induction programs for newly appointed District Judges, with Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen delivering the introductory address.

- **National and Institutional Engagements:**
  - Participation in the National Conference on Effective Implementation of the PoSH Act, 2013, organized by the Supreme Court's GSICC and NJA Bhopal (5–6 July 2025).
  - Designation of Mrs. S.A. Macwan, Assistant Registrar (GSFM Cell), as Nodal Officer for the She-Box Portal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, ensuring effective monitoring and resolution of complaints.

- **Modification in Nomenclature:**
  - During the first quarter of 2026, the Internal Complaints Committee was reconstituted and redesignated as the Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC), reflecting its expanded role in promoting gender sensitization alongside the effective implementation of the PoSH Act, 2013.

    Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Workplace - Through the concerted efforts of the Internal Complaints Committee and the leadership of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the High Court of Gujarat continues to strengthen institutional mechanisms that promote gender sensitivity, dignity, and equality within the workplace. These initiatives collectively reaffirm the High Court's steadfast commitment to creating a secure, inclusive, and harassment-free environment for all stakeholders associated with the institution.

State and National Conferences / Judicial Events

Year 2023

- **Address on 'The Art of Judgment Writing' by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India:** Under the guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, the Gujarat State Judicial Academy organized a special address by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, on 28th October 2023 at the Auditorium of the High Court of Gujarat, Sola, Ahmedabad. The programme was attended by 342 Judicial Officers from the District Judiciary. Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat also remained present on the occasion.



- **Address on 'Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties' on occasion of the Constitution Day - 26th November 2023**: On the occasion of Constitution Day (National Law Day) celebrated on 26th November 2023, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. R. Shah, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered a keynote address on the theme "Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties". The programme was presided over by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh J. Shastri, then Judge, High Court of Gujarat, in the presence of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat. The lecture highlighted the significance of constitutional values and the balance between rights and duties in a democratic society.



Year - 2024

- **All India District Court Judges' Conference at Dhordo, Kachchh:** As part of the celebrations marking 75 years of the Supreme Court of India, the All India District Court Judges' Conference was organized by the Supreme Court and hosted by the High Court of Gujarat at Tent City, Dhordo, Kachchh, on 2–3 March 2024. The Conference was graced by Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, then Chief Justice of India, along with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi, Judges of the Supreme Court, as well as Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, and other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court. More than 300 Judicial Officers from across the country participated, with the inaugural session commencing with a welcome address by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Gujarat, followed by addresses from the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court. In his keynote, the then Chief Justice of India emphasized the pivotal role of the District Judiciary as the backbone of the justice delivery system, highlighting the need for timely justice, improved infrastructure, inclusivity, and greater use of technology. The Conference provided a vital platform for deliberation on strengthening the District Judiciary and reaffirmed the collective commitment of the judicial fraternity towards a more efficient, accessible, and citizen-centric justice system.



- **40 hours Mediation training programme organized on 22nd April 2024:** The Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, under the aegis of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, New Delhi, organized a "40 Hours Mediation Training Programme" with the object of strengthening mediation skills and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat and Patron-in-Chief, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, then Judge, High Court of Gujarat and Executive Chairman, GSLSA, and Hon'ble Ms. Justice S. V. Pinto, Judge, High Court of Gujarat and Member, Mediation Monitoring Committee of the High Court of Gujarat.

Conference on "Mediation – A Tool for Arbitration & Commercial Courts":

A Conference on Mediation – A Tool for Arbitration and Commercial Courts: An Integrative Approach to Resolve Commercial Disputes" was held on 4th and 5th May 2024. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India, in the presence of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, and other Hon'ble dignitaries. The Conference provided a vital platform for deliberations on diverse themes, notably the growing role of mediation in commercial dispute resolution, with emphasis on integrating mediation into arbitration and commercial court processes to achieve speedy, effective, and amicable settlements. It also focused on the challenges faced by children with disabilities and juveniles, along with the issues encountered by organizations assisting them. Detailed discussions were held, and valuable suggestions were offered by participating stakeholders to strengthen support systems and ensure effective protection and rehabilitation of such children, thereby reaffirming the judiciary's commitment to inclusivity, efficiency, and child-centric justice.





"मुस्कान" – Independence Day Celebration for Children: On 15 August 2024, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority organized a special Independence Day programme titled "Muskan" at the High Court Auditorium, under the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Gujarat. Conceived for the children of Prakash Andh Kanya Vidhyalay and Conceived for the children of Prakash Andh Kanya Vidhyalay and the Juvenile Home for Boys, Gandhinagar, the event featured cultural performances including singing, tabla and harmonium recitals, and drama. The programme embodied the spirit of inclusion, encouragement, and celebration, providing a memorable platform for the children to showcase their talent and confidence.

- **"एहसास न्याय का सबके लिए" – Gender Sensitisation Campaign:** On 5 October 2024, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, in association with the Gender Resource Centre, launched the year-long campaign "एहसास – न्याय का सबके लिए" at the High Court Auditorium under the leadership of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice and Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA. The inaugural seminar emphasized the need for sensitization to foster a gender-neutral and inclusive workplace, and also marked the launch of the official website of the Internal Complaints Committee. The event featured insightful presentations, stakeholder discussions, and was attended by Hon'ble Judges, senior officials, members of the Bar, and over 600 employees. Recognized as one of the first large-scale gender sensitization initiatives in the country, the campaign proposed batch-wise training at the Gujarat State Judicial Academy and extension to all District Courts, aiming to promote awareness, prevent workplace harassment, and strengthen inclusivity across the judiciary.



Annual Judicial Conference 2024: "Institutional Perspective – Self- Evaluation and Self-Evolution": On 19–20 October 2024, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, in association with the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, organized a two-day Annual Judicial Conference on the theme "Institutional Perspective – Self-Evaluation and Self-Evolution" at the High Court Auditorium. The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, who in his keynote address on "Trust Deficit" emphasized that declining public confidence in the judiciary could foster tendencies towards mob justice, underscoring the importance of strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Deliberations during the Conference covered contemporary issues such as the exercise of judicial discretion in bail applications, key aspects of civil trials and appeals, challenges confronting the justice delivery system, and the role of Special POCSO Courts and Juvenile Justice Boards in safeguarding future generations. Sessions were addressed by Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and moderated by senior District Judges. On this occasion, the GSLSA newsletter "Nyaypath" was released by Hon'ble Justice Gavai, along with a Standard Operating Procedure on Prison Reforms prepared under the guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of Gujarat and Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA. The Conference witnessed participation of nearly 600 Judicial Officers in person, with others joining virtually, and concluded with the preparation and circulation of a compilation of discussions and recommendations. The initiative reinforced the judiciary's commitment to self-evaluation, institutional evolution, and strengthening public trust in justice delivery.



Year - 2025

- **West Zone-I Regional Conference on "Court Dockets:** Explosion and Exclusion" organized on 22nd & 23rd March 2025: On 22–23 March 2025, the National Judicial Academy, in association with the High Court of Gujarat and the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, convened the West Zone-I Regional Conference on the theme "Court Dockets: Explosion and Exclusion" at the High Court Auditorium, Ahmedabad. The Conference brought together Judicial Officers and delegates from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh to deliberate on the twin challenges of mounting pendency and denial of access to justice. The inaugural session was graced by eminent dignitaries including Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Chief Justice of Rajasthan; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose, Former Judge, Supreme Court and Director, NJA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, then Acting Chief Justice of Gujarat; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alpesh Y. Kogje, Judge, High Court of Gujarat and President, GSJA. In his welcome address, Justice Vaishnav underscored the urgency of tackling pendency and ensuring access to justice, while highlighting the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence and technology in judicial administration. The deliberations spanned five thematic sessions on inclusivity in court management, digital accessibility, alternative dispute resolution, judiciary–media relations, and the role of emerging technologies in judicial governance. Discussions emphasized the importance of technological interventions such as e-Courts, the National Judicial Data Grid, AI-based tools, e- Sewa Kendras, and Online Dispute Resolution mechanisms, while also recognizing the Mediation Act, 2023 as a milestone in institutionalizing mediation. The Conference concluded with forward-looking reflections on the potential of AI, blockchain, virtual courts, and translation tools in judicial processes, coupled with a strong call for ethical safeguards and human oversight. This Regional Conference served as a significant platform for inter-State dialogue and exchange of ideas, reinforcing the collective resolve of the judiciary to build a more inclusive, efficient, and technologically empowered justice delivery system.



- **Western Regional Conference of NALSA at Ekta Nagar:** On 26 April 2025, to commemorate three decades of the establishment of the National Legal Services Authority under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the Western Regional Conference for the Western Zone States and Union Territories was organized at Tent City–II, Ekta Nagar, Narmada District, near the Statue of Unity. The Conference was chaired by Hon'ble Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and then Executive Chairman, NALSA, and graced by Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and then Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; Hon'ble Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of Gujarat and Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, Judge, High Court of Gujarat and then Executive Chairman, GSLSA, along with other dignitaries from Western Zone States and Union Territories, the Conference brought together Executive Chairmen, Member Secretaries, and representatives of State Legal Services Authorities and High Court Legal Services Committees.The event featured deliberations on innovative projects and best practices, earning wide appreciation as one of the most successful regional conferences. On the occasion, the new GSLSA website (with Gujarati version) and NALSA's theme song "Haq Hamara Bhi Toh Hai" were launched, while important schemes such as NALSA Jagriti (2025), the revised NALSA DAWN, and NALSA SAMVAD (2025) were introduced through videos, jingles, electronic launches, and hardbound material, reaffirming NALSA's commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and strengthening access to justice.

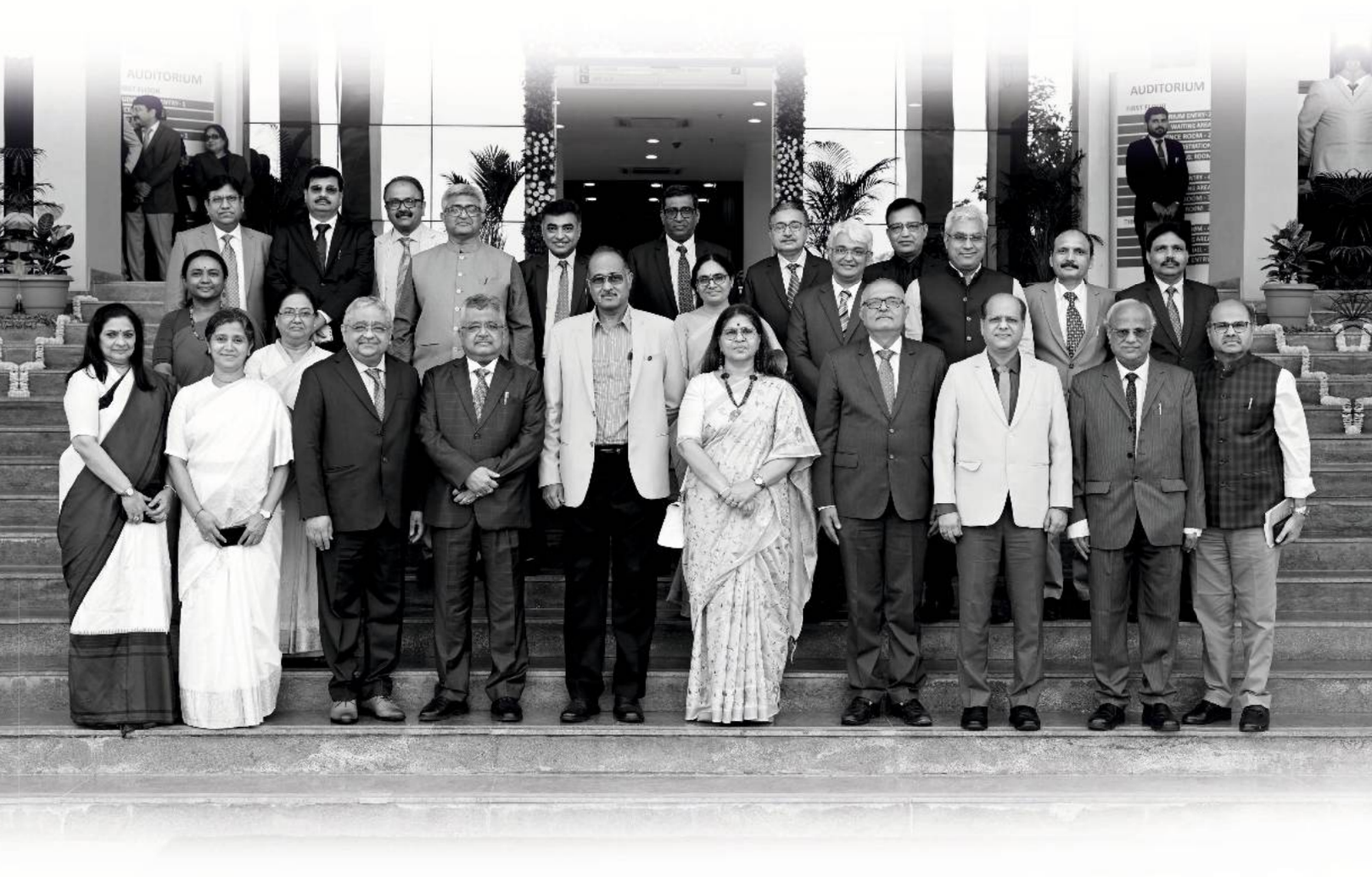


- **Mega Legal Awareness and Legal Empowerment Camp for Tribal Communities:** On 27 April 2025, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority organized a Mega Legal Awareness and Empowerment Camp at Dam View Point, Kevadia Colony, Ekta Nagar, Narmada District, on the theme of the NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015, specially for the benefit of the tribal population. The Camp was inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and then Executive Chairman, NALSA, and graced by Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant, Hon'ble Justice Vikram Nath, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of Gujarat, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, and other Hon'ble Judges. The programme showcased newly launched NALSA schemes and various Central and State Government welfare initiatives through departmental stalls, guiding beneficiaries about their legal and statutory rights and the means to avail them. Extensively coordinated by the District Administration and the District Legal Services Authority, Narmada, the Camp ensured maximum participation of the tribal community, thereby reinforcing the commitment to legal empowerment, awareness, and inclusive justice delivery.



- **"Conference on Arbitration Law" organized on 20th & 21st September 2025:** The two-day Arbitration Conference in Gujarat, inaugurated with Justice N.V. Anjaria, Judge, Supreme Court of India, as Chief Guest and keynote speaker, in the presence of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of Gujarat, and other Hon'ble Judges, was described as a milestone in strengthening arbitration culture in the State. Justice Anjaria traced arbitration's evolution from Panchayat systems to modern mechanisms, emphasizing autonomy, fairness, and speed, while Justice A.Y. Kogje highlighted Gujarat's emergence as an arbitration-friendly jurisdiction. Across four technical sessions, deliberations focused on the limits of judicial intervention under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, stressing minimal interference and judicial restraint; party

autonomy and appointment of arbitrators, including validity of agreements, impartiality, stamping, and the group-of-companies doctrine; interim measures and continuity, covering Sections 9 and 17, emergency arbitration, anti-suit injunctions, and efficient procedures; and enforcement of awards and jurisdiction, underscoring pro-enforcement approaches, strict handling of stay orders, consolidation, costs, and interest. The Valedictory Session, chaired by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, outlined a forward-looking vision for arbitration in India, emphasizing institutional capacity-building, technological integration, and consistency in jurisprudence. Attended by 385 Judicial Officers and 123 advocates, the Conference provided a comprehensive understanding of contemporary arbitration law and reinforced Gujarat's position as a progressive, arbitration-friendly jurisdiction.

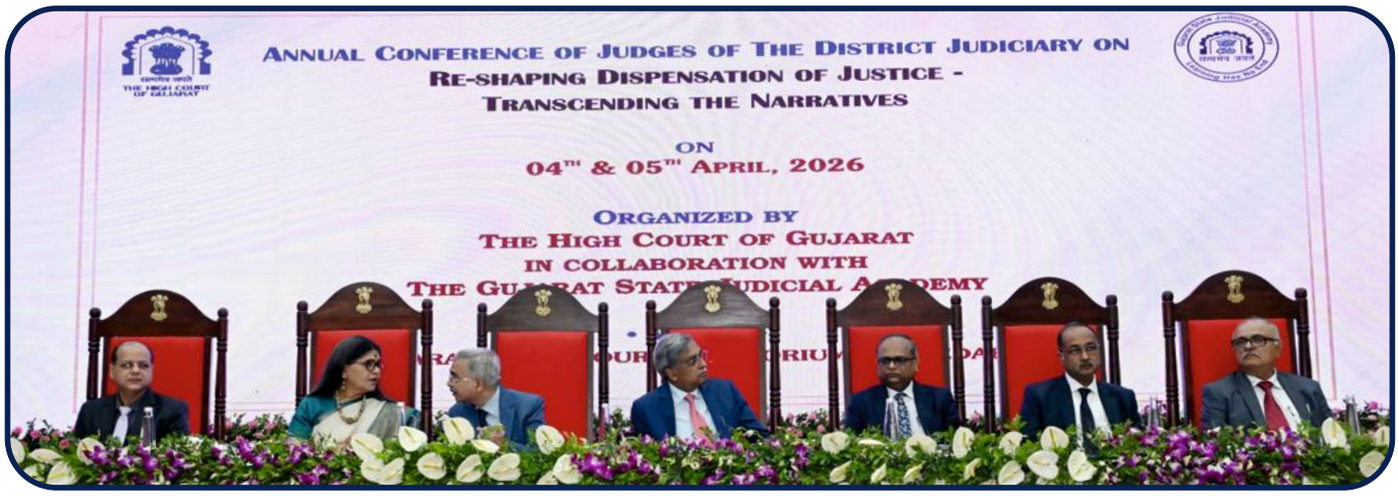


Year - 2026

- **A two-day conference on the theme "Institutional Arbitration at a Crossroads:** Challenges and the Way Forward" was held on 28/02/2026 and 01/03/2026 with the objective of strengthening the framework of institutional arbitration in India and positioning the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre as a premier arbitral institution of national and international repute. The conference brought together eminent Judges, former Judges, senior advocates, arbitrators, policymakers, industry representatives, and legal professionals to deliberate on critical issues relating to institutional arbitration, including procedural efficiency, ethics, enforceability of arbitral awards, institutional capacity, and emerging hybrid dispute resolution mechanisms. Across four technical sessions, the deliberations underscored the advantages of institutional arbitration over ad hoc arbitration, the importance of ethical and professional standards, the essential parameters for preparing sustainable and enforceable arbitral awards, and the growing role of Med-Arb and Arb-Med in promoting efficient, party-centric dispute resolution. In the Valedictory Session, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Anjaria, Judge, Supreme Court of India, lauded the successful organisation of the conference and observed that the discussions had comprehensively addressed the key dimensions of institutional arbitration. Emphasising transparency, integrity, and justice as its foundational principles, His Lordship described the conference as the beginning of a broader movement towards strengthening institutional arbitration in Gujarat and expressed confidence that the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre would emerge as a leading institution and inspire the next generation of arbitration professionals.



- The Annual Conference of Judges of the District Judiciary on the theme "Re-Shaping Dispensation of Justice – Transcending the Narratives" was organised on 4th and 5th April 2026 by the High Court of Gujarat in collaboration with the Gujarat State Judicial Academy at the High Court of Gujarat Auditorium. The Conference served as an important platform for judicial officers from across the State to deliberate on contemporary challenges confronting the justice delivery system and to explore innovative approaches for enhancing judicial efficiency, accessibility, and public confidence in the judiciary. Through a series of thematic sessions, panel discussions, and interactive deliberations led by eminent Judges, legal experts, and academicians, the Conference focused on strengthening judicial administration, promoting consistency and quality in judicial decision-making, embracing technological advancements, and fostering a citizen-centric approach to justice. The deliberations also emphasised the importance of judicial ethics, continuous professional development, effective case management, and institutional excellence in meeting the evolving expectations of society. The Conference reaffirmed the High Court's commitment to capacity building, knowledge sharing, and the adoption of progressive judicial practices aimed at ensuring timely, efficient, and accessible justice for all.



Glimpses of the Republic Day Celebrations



2024



2025



2026

Glimpses of the Independence Day Celebrations



2023



2024



2025

Glimpses of the Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations



2023



2024





2025

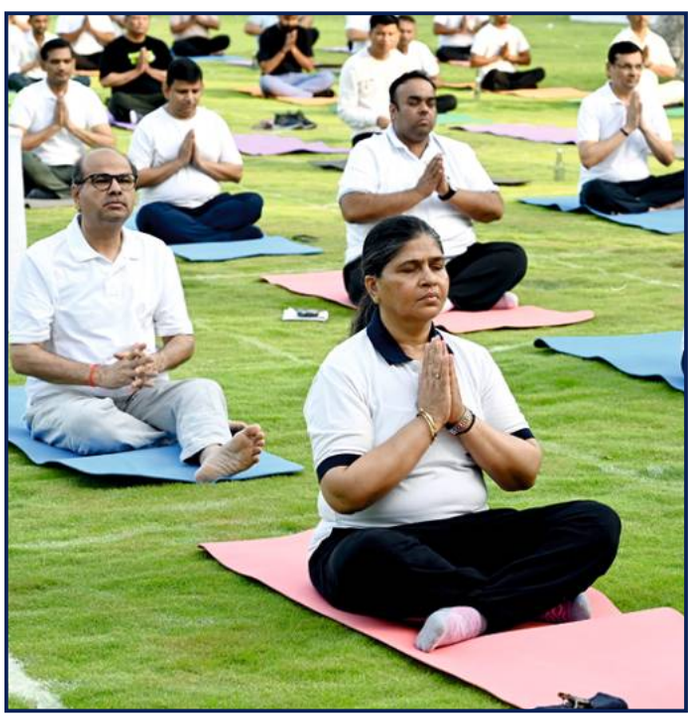
Glimpses of the International Yoga Day Celebrations



2024



2025



2026

Glimpses of the Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

2023





2024





2025





Glimpses of the Diwali Get-together Celebrations

2023









2024









2025

Organization of Annual Sports Week

Sports Week 2025 - Table Tennis, Carrom, and Chess Tournament organized on 22nd to 26th January 2025:

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat and Patron-in-Chief, Gujarat State Judicial Academy, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Y. Kogje, Judge, High Court of Gujarat and then President of the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, a Sports Week was organized from 22nd January to 26th January 2025 with the objective of promoting the physical and mental well-being of Judicial Officers and High Court staff, while fostering team spirit and camaraderie.



Sports Week 2026 - Table Tennis, Carrom, Chess, Musical Chair, Lemon & Spoon and Knockdown organized on 16th to 22nd February 2026:

Annual Sports Week – 2026, jointly organized by the High Court of Gujarat and the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, was held on 16th February to 22nd February 2026, featuring tournaments in Table Tennis, Carrom, Chess, Musical Chair, Lemon & Spoon and Knockdown. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 398 participants, including Judicial Officers on deputation in the Registry and members of the High Court staff.



Tree Plantation on 5th June 2025:

The Tree Plantation programme was graced by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, who planted saplings in the premises of the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, symbolizing the institution's commitment to a sustainable and greener future..



CHAPTER 04

Judicial Infrastructure and Human Resources

Infrastructure Development in the High Court

Infrastructure Development in the District Judiciary

Human Resources

Recruitment Initiatives

Infrastructure Development in the High Court

The High Court complex, functional since 1999, has evolved into a well- equipped judicial campus comprising 41 courtrooms, administrative buildings, record rooms, advocate's chambers, and the Government Pleader's office. During the period, new advocate's chambers have also been constructed, thereby enhancing facilities for members of the Bar.

Important institutions such as the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, auditorium and conference hall, Arbitration Centre, State Legal Services Authority building, Judge's Library, and allied offices have continued to function effectively and have been further strengthened wherever required.

The major achievements in technology and modernization include:

- CCTV surveillance system operational across the campus
- Centralized War Room for monitoring and administration
- E-Sewa Kendra facilitating litigant services
- Modern conference and video projection systems

Significant steps have also been taken in safety and security, including:

- Strengthening of fire detection and protection systems
- Operationalization of the fire safety control building
- Construction of barracks for security personnel
- Development of facility buildings at key entry gates
- Canopy work and compound wall construction

Continuous improvements in infrastructure and utilities have been carried out, such as:

- Upgradation of electrical cable systems
- Installation of modern VRV air-conditioning systems
- Improvement of water supply through borewells and pipelines
- Strengthening of sewage and pumping systems
- Construction of connecting bridges between courtrooms
- Development of additional parking facilities

The Committee has also focused on environmental sustainability, including:

- Replacement of conventional lights with LED systems
- Renovation and development of gardens
- Establishment of a Miyawaki garden and green spaces
- Installation of green technology systems
- Water conservation and related infrastructure

Special attention has been given to welfare and inclusivity, including:

- Establishment of a Medical and Wellness Centre
- Availability of crèche facility
- Installation of a centralized R.O. drinking water system
- Development of accessible infrastructure with ramps, tactile tiles, handrails, and Braille signage

Several other works have been completed, including renovation of Bar Rooms, installation of advanced conference systems, development of parking areas, and strengthening of electrical and fire safety infrastructure. The Justice Clock, along with its virtual version, has also been installed and is fully functional.

All these projects have been planned with modern design, improved accessibility, and eco-friendly features to meet future requirements. The High Court Building Committee has thus made consistent and meaningful efforts in strengthening and modernizing the infrastructure of the Gujarat High Court, making it more efficient, accessible, and future-ready.

Year 2023

Inauguration of renovated High Court Staff Canteen on 1st November 2023

Renovated High Court Staff Canteen was inaugurated auspiciously by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal on 1st November 2023 in the august presence of the Hon'ble Members of Building Committee comprising of Hon'ble Messrs Justices N. V. Anjaria, Ashutosh Shastri and J. C. Doshi & other companion Judges of the High Court of Gujarat.





Establishment of Medical Facility

The Medical Facility inaugurated on 9th November 2023 for Hon'ble Judges, Officers, Staff Members and other stakeholders is a visionary initiative spearheaded by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, aimed at promoting the healthcare of all stakeholders. Yoga & Wellness Center at High Court Medical Facility was established with a dedicated Yoga-Pranayama-Wellness Instructor.



Inauguration of MyByk in the campus of the Gujarat State Judicial Academy on 9th November 2023

MyByk Cycle Stand, Gujarat State Judical Academy inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Rushikesh Patel, Minister of Law & Justice, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Gujarat State, in the august presence of the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Anjaria, and the Board of Governors Hon'ble Messrs Justices Ashutosh Shastri, A. Y. Kogje, Gita Gopi & Vaibhavi D. Nanavati, and other Hon'ble companion Judges of the High Court of Gujarat on 9th November 2023.



Establishment of Gender Sensitization and Family Matters (GSFM) Cell: The High Court of Gujarat has established the Gender Sensitization and Family Matters (GSFM) Cell to strengthen workplace dignity and inclusivity. This dedicated cell addresses complaints of sexual harassment, promotes gender sensitivity, and fosters a safe, respectful, and gender-neutral environment. It has been entrusted with two core responsibilities: (i) handling complaints of sexual harassment against judicial officers, staff, and advocates within the High Court campus, while also maintaining records of matters referred by the District Judiciary; and (ii) undertaking sensitization initiatives in family matters. Complaints arising in the High Court campus are further addressed by the Internal Complaints Committee constituted by the High Court, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. Through this initiative, the High Court underscores its commitment to gender equality, workplace safety, and awareness-building, while reinforcing mechanisms of redressal and sensitization across the judicial system.

Year 2024

- **Inauguration of renovated Public Canteen on 24th July 2024:** Renovated Public Canteen was inaugurated auspiciously by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal on 24th July 2024 in the august presence of the Hon'ble Members of Building Committee comprising of Hon'ble Messrs Justices B. A. Vaishnav, A. S. Supehia and J. C. Doshi & other companion Judges of the High Court of Gujarat. This initiative marks an important step in enhancing amenities for all stakeholders— including advocates, court staff, and visitors.





- **Accessibility and Convenient Infrastructure Facility for Person with disabilities:** The Accessibility Committee of Gujarat High Court have made 16 new Accessible infrastructure in Gujarat High Court with the overarching objective of enhancing physical and functional accessibility for person with disabilities. These 16 new infrastructures will enhance the convenience and accessibility to the Person with Disabilities.
- **Construction of Ramps at various places:** Ramps for specially abled persons are constructed at various buildings like Old Advocate Building, New 8-Court Building, Administrative Building, Old G. P. Building, Near Staff Canteen, Near Mitti Cafe, Near State Legal Parking, Judges pathway to enter the Chief Court from the Registry Building, etc.
- **Installation of Railings and Hand Rails:** Railings and Hand Rails are installed on each ramps, entrance of Main Court Building, Administrative Building, Old Advocate Building, Hon'ble Chief Justice Court, Near Judges Entry of Main Court Building, New 8-Court Building, Judges Facility Building, Medical Facility Building, etc.





- **Installation of Tactile:** Tactile installation is done to identify safe routes, signal hazards like crossings or stairs and thus enhance accessibility for visually challenged persons.




- **Separate Toilets for Specially Abled Persons with Alarm system:** Toilets are constructed for Specially Abled Persons in various buildings of High Court Campus.






- **Reserved seats for in each Court Rooms:** Sample regarding sign board showing reserved seat for Specially abled person/Senior Citizen/Pregnant Women is installed in each Court Rooms.







- **Golf Cart Facility at Main Gate No.2 and Wheelchair Facility at Medical Facility with Peon:** In furtherance to achieve the aim of making the High Court premises accessible, the facilities of Golf-cart and wheelchair were included for differently abled persons, senior citizens, pregnant woman, children, etc. Display Boards with contact details regarding the facilities at Gate No. 2 & 5 are installed as well as the details are made available on the designated Webpage for the Accessibility Facility. Moreover, it was resolved to extend the service of Golf-cart and wheelchair to the employees of the High Court to visit medical facility located in the premises.





- **Reserved Parking space for Persons with Disabilities:** Parking Space/Area is earmarked for the Persons with Disabilities Installation of Layout and location of the building: Sign boards showing High Court Layout and location of each buildings are installed at various locations in High Court Campus.

- **Reserved Parking space for Persons with Disabilities:** Parking Space/Area is earmarked for the Persons with Disabilities.



- **Installation of Layout and location of the building:** Sign boards showing High Court Layout and location of each buildings are installed at various locations in High Court Campus.





- **Webpage of Accessibility Facilities on the High Court Website:** Under the directions of the Hon'ble Accessibility Committee, the designated Webpage for Accessibility Facilities available at the High Court with the details of contact persons for availing the said facilities is made available on the webpage

- **Enhancement of existing GatePass system:** Acknowledging the requirement of accessibility services to be enabled for differently abled persons, it is resolved to enhance GatePass system particularly keeping the needs of the Persons with Disabilities under consideration. Said enhancement in the GatePass system is in process.

- **Launch of MED-ARB Centre (Mediation Centre for Arbitration) on 15th August 2024**
  - The launch of the Med-Arb Centre at Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre (GHAC) marks a groundbreaking development in India's legal landscape. Spearheaded by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, this pioneering initiative combines the benefits of Mediation and Arbitration.

- **Inauguration of Mini Theater**
  - Mini Theater with 30 seating capacity was inaugurated on 29th October 2024 at the auspicious hands of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat cum Patron-In-Chief of the Gujarat State Judicial Academy in presence of Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat.

- **Inauguration of 'MITTI CAFÉ' on 25th November 2024**

  A unique initiative, "Mitti Café," fostering inclusiveness within the justice delivery system, was inaugurated under the able leadership of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat. The Gujarat High Court thus became the first in the country to establish such a project following its introduction at the Supreme Court of India. The High Court of Gujarat and GSLSA have proposed to extend opportunities to family members of employees and officers who are physically challenged and inclined to undergo training, thereby enabling them to become part of this meaningful initiative.The café was inaugurated on 25 November 2024 at the esteemed hands of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, in the august presence of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and dignitaries from the MITTI Foundation, Kapila and Nirmal Hingorani Foundation, State Bank of India, and Dalmia Foundation, who have partnered as financial and motivational supporters. The café serves as a platform for specially- abled individuals to showcase their skills and contribute meaningfully to society. It is part of a broader effort to provide employment and livelihood opportunities to persons with disabilities, thereby promoting economic independence and dignity. At the same time, it seeks to raise awareness about inclusion and disability rights, reinforcing the judiciary's commitment to a compassionate and equitable environment.



Unveiling the Frame of Preamble of Constitution on 26th November 2024

On the occasion of Constitution Day, celebrated on 26th November 2024, a framed copy of the Preamble to the Constitution of India was unveiled at the High Court of Gujarat by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat and Patron-in-Chief of the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, in the presence of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat. The ceremony reaffirmed the commitment of the institution to the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.



- **Inauguration of Multiple Infrastructure Development Projects on 7th December 2024**

  The High Court of Gujarat had organized Curtain Raiser Ceremony of Multiple Infrastructure Development Projects viz. I. Virtual Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony New Court Building, Administrative Building, Additional IT Cell Building & New Recreation Area at the Gujarat State Judicial Academy in the campus of the High Court of Gujarat; II. Release of Draft Vision Document for full-fledged portal and suite for pure paperless Court & Registry of Gujarat High Court; III. Virtual Inauguration of (1) Digital Hybrid Hearing Platform for Family Court with remote adjudication in Jurisdictional Taluka Courts & (2) Five pilot online courts for Negotiable Instrument Cases at Ahmedabad; IV. Release of Nyay Setu organized on December 7, 2024 at Gujarat High Court Auditorium, High Court Campus, Sola, Ahmedabad.

  The said event was graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister of State of Gujarat - Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, Hon'ble Minister (Law & Justice), Government of Gujarat – Shri Rushikesh Patel and other Hon'ble Dignitaries.

- **New 21 Court Building:** The stone laying (groundbreaking) ceremony for the new 21-court building at the Gujarat High Court campus marks a major milestone in the modernization and expansion of judicial infrastructure in the State. This new building will span 10,690 square meters with 21 advanced courtrooms spread across three floors. It will feature a dedicated bridge connecting it to the existing complex, enhanced parking facilities, separate elevators for judges and litigants, accessible washrooms (including for differently abled individuals), tactile tiles, Braille signage, ramps, and a well-planned, barrier-free layout. Sustainable elements such as solar rooftops and water harvesting systems are integrated into the design, reflecting a commitment to environmental responsibility.



- **Additional Administrative Building:** The new administrative building is designed to support efficient and seamless functioning of the judicial system. It spans ground plus three floors and includes dedicated spaces for officers' chambers, staff facilities, and an advanced record room equipped with modern storage and climate control systems. Features prioritized in the building include enhanced accessibility with tactile tiles, Braille signage, modern fire safety systems, elevators, and Eco- friendly elements like rooftop solar panels and water harvesting.



- **I.T. Cell Building:** This dedicated building is set to become the central technology hub for the Gujarat Judiciary, spanning four floors and 1,500 square meters. It will house facilities for technical staff, hardware, and a major data center that will handle hosting and digital needs for the entire Gujarat State Judiciary. The building will also include a digitization cell, multiple floors for in-house software development, and a specialized War Room with a CCTV monitoring center for all courts in the State.



- **Recreational Facility Centre:** This modern recreation centre is designed to provide a vibrant space for physical fitness, relaxation, and social interaction. It will offer indoor and outdoor sports amenities including badminton, volleyball, and tennis courts, a yoga room, a swimming pool, a multi-purpose hall, and welcoming lounges. The facility targets the holistic development of the judicial community by fostering a balanced and healthy lifestyle in a serene environment. Renovated Full Court Room (Committee Room No. 1) Year 2025

- **Inauguration of "Sangathi" A Victimology Centre on 6th March 2025**

  Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sonia Gokani, the then Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, virtually inaugurated the Victomology Centre – "Sangathi" on 24th February 2023. On 6th March 2025, Sangathi has been launched at the auspicious hands of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat in presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, then Executive Chairman, GSLSA and other Hon'ble dignitaries. To further strengthen its services and outreach, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Judges have now facilitated the relocation of Sangathi to the Permanent Legal Services Clinic (PLSC) at Bungalow No. 12, Dafnala, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad where it is being provided with dedicated rooms, adequate staff, and an infrastructure conducive to delivering multi-disciplinary victim support services. This move aims to expand the scope of services, ensuring swift, effective, and empathetic assistance to a larger number of victims.

- **Inauguration of Renovated Committee Rooms**

  Renovated Committee Room No. 3 on 8th August 2025 and Renovated Full Court Room (Committee Room No. 1) on 22nd September 2025 were inaugurated auspiciously by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal in the august presence of the Hon'ble Members of the Building Committee comprising of Hon'ble Messrs Justices A. S. Supehia, Nikhil S. Kariel, Hasmukh D. Suthar and P. M. Raval & other companion Judges of the High Court of Gujarat.



Renovated Committee Room No. 3



Renovated Full Court Room (Committee Room No. 1)

- **First Anniversary of MITTI Café:**

  On completion of one year of the initiative, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority organized an event on 25th November 2025, under the guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, to celebrate the first anniversary of MITTI Café and to recognize the success of this unique and socially meaningful initiative.



Year 2026

- **Inauguration of 'Synthetic Walking Track' and 'Ivan Kavach (Miyawaki Forest)' on 12th January 2026**
  - Inauguration ceremony of 'Synthetic Walking Track' and 'Ivan Kavach (Miyawaki Forest)' was held on 12th January, 2026 at Gujarat State Judicial Academy by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat & Patron-in-Chief, GSJA in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.Y. Kogje, Senior-most Judge, High Court of Gujarat, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Supehia, Judge, High Court of Gujarat and Chairperson, High Court Building Committee and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia, President, GSJA & Judge, High Court of Gujarat, the Members of the Board of Governors and the High Court Building Committee Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ilesh J. Vora, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hasmukh D. Suthar, Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.M. Raval and Other Hon'ble Companion Judges of the High Court of Gujarat.



- **Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony and Unveiling of Plaque:**

  On 28th February, 2026, a significant milestone achieved by organizing the ceremony of Foundation Stone Laying and Unveiling of Plaque of the New State-of-the-Art Building of the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre under the aegis of the High Court of Gujarat. This landmark occasion was graced by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble the Chief Minister, Hon'ble three Judges of Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble the Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges of High Court on the dais, who jointly unveiled the plaque and unwrapped the ceremonial brick. The act symbolized not merely the commencement of a physical structure, but the laying of a strong institutional foundation for the future of arbitration in the State reflecting a collective vision of progress, efficiency, and excellence in dispute resolution.



- Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Type-7 Residential Multi-Storey Flats at Bodakdev, Ahmedabad for Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat & Inauguration of Gujarat High Court Guest House Dhuliakot – Law Garden, Ahmedabad & Foundation Stone Unveiling Ceremony of 4BHK Bungalows for Director and Deputy Director in the campus of Gujarat State Judicial Academy, Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad on 3rd April 2026.






GUJARAT HIGH COURT GUEST HOUSE
DHULAKOT - LAW GARDEN, AHMEDABAD
INAUGURATED BY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH
JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N. V. ANJARIA
JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI
JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT
HON'BLE HIGH COURT BUILDING COMMITTEE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. S. SUPEHIA
JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT & CHAIRPERSON
AND
MEMBERS
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NIKHIL S. KARIEL
JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HASMUKH D. SUTHAR
JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE P. M. RAVAL
AND
HON'BLE JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT
ON
FRIDAY 07TH APRIL 2025
(CHAITRA VAD 1, VIKRAM SAMVAT 2081)
M. N. PATOLIA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Infrastructure Development in the District Judiciary

In a significant stride towards modernization, the High Court of Gujarat inaugurated new court buildings at various districts as well as talukas of Gujarat. This initiative underscores High Court of Gujarat's unwavering commitment to enhance the infrastructure of the District Judiciary, fostering a more efficient and accessible legal system. New buildings are designed with a litigant-friendly approach, aimed at improving accessibility and convenience for all stakeholders. With state-of-the-art facilities and spacious courtrooms, the District Courts of Gujarat aim to provide more accessible and conducive environment for litigation. This endeavor reaffirms Gujarat High Court's proactive stance in fostering a judiciary that is both efficient and responsive to the needs of its litigants and other stakeholders.



Newly inaugurated District Court Building at Rajkot

Inauguration of District Court Buildings

Sr. No	District Court	Date
1	Rajkot	06/01/2024

Sr. No	District Court	Date
1	Kheda at Nadiad	28/01/2025
2	Labour Court, Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar	24/03/2025
3	Industrial & Labour Court, Surat	05/04/2025

Sr. No	District Court	Date
1	Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar	05/06/2026

Inauguration of Taluka Court Buildings

District	Taluka Court/s	Date
Mahesana	Satlasana	08/03/2023
Rajkot	Lodhika, Jamkandorna & Kotda-Sangani	30/03/2023
Navasri	Ahwa	08/04/2023
Patan	Chanasma	09/07/2023
Botad	Ranpur	06/08/2023
Bharuch	Valia	01/09/2023
Anand	Borsad	09/09/2023

District	Taluka Court/s	Date
Navsari	Chikhli & Khergam	26/01/2024
Tapi	Dolvan	26/01/2024
Bharuch	Jhaghadia	26/01/2024
Vadodara,	Karjan	26/01/2024
Surendranagar	Limbdi	26/01/2024
Mahesana	Jotana	10/08/2024
Mahisagar	Virpur	06/10/2024
Amreli	Rajula	21/12/2024

District	Taluka Court	Date
Chhotaudepur	Bodeli	18/01/2025
Gir Somnath	Sutrapada	15/02/2025
Morbi	Tankara	10/04/2025
Banaskantha	Tharad	30/04/2025
Panchmahals	Kalol	20/07/2025
Ahmedabad (Rural)	Sanand	06/09/2025
Sabarkantha	Prantij	27/09/2025
Tapi	Uchchhal	09/09/2025

District	Taluka Court	Date
Amreli	Lathi	24/01/2026
Mahesana	Addl. District Court, Kadi	22/06/2026

Bhoomi Poojan of District Court Building

District Court	Date
Gandhinagar	23/04/2023
Gir Somnath at Veraval	25/06/2023
Chhotaudepur	10/09/2023

Bhoomi Poojan of Taluka Court Buildings

District	Taluka Court/s	Date
Navsari	Waghai	26/01/2024
Kheda at Nadiad	Vaso	26/01/2024
Kheda at Nadiad	Kheda	30/11/2024

District	Taluka Court/s	Date
Valsad	Pardi	11/01/2025
Chhotaudepur	Kawant	18/01/2025

Establishment of Special Courts or New Courts in the District Judiciary (2023–2025)

Special Courts & New Judicial Institutions (2023–2025)

2023

- Expansion of Virtual Traffic Courts (20 new courts) and constitution of a Special NDPS Court at Ahmedabad.

2024

- Principal District Judges designated as Special Courts under the Depositors Act.
- New Senior Civil Judge Courts at Meghraj, Ghoghamba, Kodinar, Naliya, and Jotana.
- Establishment of 80 new Family Courts across 32 Districts.
- Special Fast Track Court at Kapadwanj for POCSO and rape cases.
- Additional NDPS Special Courts in Surat, Rajkot, and Ahmedabad.
- Launch of SARAS Courts for cheque dishonour cases.

2025

- Special Court at Porbandar for Maritime Anti-Piracy Act cases.
- Special court at Gandhidham to try cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

Witness Deposition Centres

- VWDCs: Child-friendly rooms with supportive facilities for victims/witnesses.
- FWDCs: Video-conferencing centres at all district HQs for police, medical, and forensic witnesses, reducing delays and strengthening ICJS

Litigant Services

- e-Seva Kendras: Established in district/taluka courts; functional in 68 of 193 complexes, providing case info, certified copies, and guidance.

Infrastructure & Welfare Initiatives

- Ahmedabad (Rural): Inauguration of Advocates' Library, Ladies Bar Room, and lifts on Constitution Day 2025.
- Surat: Establishment of an Emergency Medical Care Centre in collaboration with Surat Municipal Corporation.

Human Resources

Strength of Staff in the High Court of Gujarat (as on 30/06/2026)

Sr. No.	Group	Working Strength
1	Group – A	227
2	Group – B	241
3	Group – C	801
4	Group – D	321
5	Contractual & Fixed Pay Basis	81
Total		1671

Strength of Judicial Officers in the District Judiciary as on 30/06/2026

Sr. No.	Cadre	Working Strength
1	District Judge	315
2	Senior Civil Judge	484
3	Civil Judge	306
Total		1105

Strength of Staff in the District Judiciary as on 30/06/2026

Sr. No.	Group	Working Strength
1	Group – A	381
2	Group – B	951
3	Group – C	8763
4	Group – D	2003
Total		12098

Recruitment Initiatives

- Gujarat State Judicial Service:

The High Court of Gujarat has ensured that recruitment and promotion of Judicial Officers strictly follow the Supreme Court's timeline in Malik Mazhar Sultan Case (2008), under the close supervision of the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Committee of Judges. To extend reservation benefits and strengthen inclusivity, amendments to the Gujarat State Judicial Service Rules, 2005 were proposed and successfully notified on 27 December 2024.

In line with Supreme Court directions, the High Court initiated multiple processes during 2024–2025, including promotions to District Judge (50%), District Judge (25%) through LDCE, direct recruitment of District Judges (25%), Civil Judges, and promotions to Senior Civil Judges.

The High Court of Gujarat is taking prompt steps to ensure conducting the ongoing Promotion Processes to all the Cadre of Judicial Officers in a fast paced manner. The next Promotion Process will be initiated immediately after conclusion of the ongoing Processes.

The details of the Recruitment/ Promotion Processes of Judicial Officers concluded during the years 2023 to 2026 (upto 30th June 2026) is as below:

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of Selected Candidate
1	District Judge by promotion (Year 2023)	72
2	District Judge Direct Recruitment (Year 2023)	Nil
3	Senior Civil Judge Promotion (Year 2023-2024)	123
4	Civil Judge Direct Recruitment (Year 2023)	13
5	Civil Judge Direct Recruitment (Year 2024-2025)	103
6	Member, Industrial Court	2

High Court of Gujarat & District Judiciary of the State:

Under the directions of Hon'ble Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and the Central Recruitment Committee, the High Court of Gujarat has undertaken comprehensive recruitment initiatives for the High Court establishment, the District Judiciary, and, for the first time, the Industrial & Labour Courts. The Table showing the Recruitment Processes concluded during the years 2023 to 2025 is as below:

Direct Requirement Process – High Court Staff

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of Selected Candidate
	Year – 2023	
1	Legal Assistant (Contractual)	27
2	Deputy Section Officer (Group-C)	63
3	Programmer (Group-A)	01
4	Assistant Librarian (Group-B)	01
	Year – 2024	
5	Private Secretary (Group-B)	08
6	System Officer (Group-C)	01
7	System Assistant (Group-C)	09
8	Attendant-cum-Cook (Group-D)	01
9	Legal Assistant (Contractual)	32
	Year – 2025	
10	Court Attendant (Group-D)	244
11	Translator (Group-C)	16
12	Driver (Group-C)	34
13	Court Manager (Group-A)	07
14	Computer Operator (Group-C)	148
15	English Steno Grade-II (Group-C)	29
16	Legal Assistant (Contractual)	23
17	Assistant Librarian (Group-B)	02
18	Deputy Section Officer (Group-C)	192

The Table showing the Recruitment Processes concluded during the years 2023 to 2026 (upto 30th June 2026) is as below:

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of Selected Candidate
	Year – 2024	
	District Judiciary Staff	
1	Peon (Group-D)	1,499
	Industrial and Labour Courts Staff	
2	Peon (Group-D)	11
	Year – 2025	
	District Judiciary Staff	
3	English Stenographer Grade-II (Group-B)	93
4	English Stenographer Grade-III (Group-C)	91
5	Assistant (Group-C)	1,527
6	Gujarati Stenographer Grade-II (Group-B)	190
7	Librarian and Librarian-cum-Research Assistant (Group-C)	30
8	Gujarati Stenographer Grade-III (Group-C)	267
9	Process Server/Bailiff (Group-C)	203
	Industrial and Labour Courts Staff	
10	Assistant/Cashier (Group-C)	79
	Year - 2026	
11	Driver (Group-C)	85

CHAPTER 05

Technological Transformation

Technological Achievements of the High Court of Gujarat

Technological Achievements of the High Court of Gujarat

Year 2023

- **Neutral Citation (14/07/2023):** Implemented Neutral Citation for all High Court judgments and final orders with QR code integration, enabling uniform citation, easy online access, advanced search, and automated dissemination to advocates.
- **Daily NJDG Alert (DNA) (29/09/2023):** Launched the Daily NJDG Alert (DNA) portal providing Judicial Officer-wise and establishment-wise reports on pendency, court allocation, and case statistics to facilitate data-driven judicial administration.
- **nSTEP (29/09/2023):** Implemented the nSTEP project across the District Judiciary by equipping Bailiffs and Process Servers with smartphones to enable technology-driven process service.
- **In-house Digitization:** Established an in-house Scanning and Digitization Cell and developed GujSWAS and a Document Management System for efficient digitization, indexing, and retrieval of case records, with plans to extend the initiative to the District Judiciary under Phase-III of the eCourts Project.

Year 2024

- **Court Staff Portal (01/01/2024):** A centralized Court Staff Portal was launched to digitally manage service records, leave, transfers, promotions, vacancies, and other personnel matters, providing real-time information for administrative decision-making.
- **Formal Witness Deposition Centre (FWDC) through Video Conferencing (06/01/2024):** Formal Witness Deposition Centres were established across the State to enable Police Officers, Medical Officers, and Forensic Experts to depose through video conferencing, ensuring speedy trials and seamless implementation of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS). The details of these Formal Witness Deposition Centres (FWDCs) are available at https://gujarathighcourt.nic.in/fwdcentres.
- **AI-based CIS Integrated Text-to-Speech Call-out System (06/01/2024):** An AI-powered bilingual (English and Gujarati) text-to-speech system integrated with CIS was introduced for automated announcement of case numbers, advocates, and parties, enhancing courtroom efficiency.
- **eFiling (06/01/2024):** eFiling was expanded to all case types in the High Court and introduced for commercial cases in selected District Courts, promoting paperless and convenient filing of cases.
- **eSewa Kendra:** eSewa Kendras at the High Court and District Judiciary provide a single-window digital facilitation centre offering case status, eFiling assistance, certified copies, legal aid guidance, digital services, and other citizen-centric judicial services.

- **Digital Hybrid Hearing Platform for Family Courts (07/12/2024):** A first- of-its-kind Digital Hybrid Hearing Platform with Remote Adjudication was launched for Cluster Family Courts, enabling digitized case files, video conferencing, and improved access to justice across Taluka-level Family Courts.





- **eGujHC Vision Document for End-to-End Paperless Adjudication (07/12/2024):**

The eGujHC Vision Document presents a comprehensive roadmap for transforming the High Court of Gujarat into a fully paperless and digitally integrated institution through a unified eGujHC Portal. The envisioned platform provides seamless digital services to all stakeholders, including Judges, advocates, litigants, Registry, and government agencies, by integrating eFiling, eScrutiny, eCase management, digital signatures, video conferencing, and interoperability with District Courts, Police, Jails, and ADR institutions. The initiative aims to deliver transparent, efficient, citizen- centric, and technology-driven justice by eliminating paper dependency, ensuring time-bound digital processes, and enabling end-to-end electronic adjudication

Scan QR code to download a digitally signed eGujHC Vision document which is available on the website of the High Court of Gujarat.





Year 2025

- **Digitally Signed e-Processes on e-Summons Platform (22/01/2025):** Digitally signed e-processes were implemented through the e-Summons platform for secure electronic transmission of summons and warrants to Police Stations, enhancing authenticity, efficiency, and real-time tracking of service.
- **Digitally Signed eCertified Copies of Orders and Judgments (25/03/2025):** An online facility was introduced for obtaining digitally signed eCertified copies of High Court orders and judgments with QR code-based authentication and secure online payment, ensuring quick and paperless delivery.

Year 2026

- **Implementation of the eShakshya Portal:** The eShakshya Portal was implemented across the Gujarat District Judiciary to facilitate digital management, access, and viewing of electronic evidence in accordance with the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

- **Inventory Management with Online Requisition System:** An Inventory Management with Online Requisition System was developed and implemented to digitize the requisition and management of stationery and other office supplies, replacing the conventional paper-based process and improving administrative efficiency.

CHAPTER 06

Expanding Access to Justice

Gujarat State Legal Services Authority
High Court Legal Services Committee
Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre

Year 2023

- **Multiple Legal Services Activities (30th July, 2023):** The Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) inaugurated "Multiple Legal Services Activities" at Sabarmati Central Jail to promote rehabilitation of inmates through music-based vocational training and music therapy. Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA visited the Socio-Psycho Care Centre and reviewed various rehabilitation and welfare initiatives within the prison, reaffirming the commitment towards reformative justice.
- **40 Hours Mediation Training Programme (12th – 16th September, 2023):** GSLSA, under the aegis of the Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), organized a 40-Hour Mediation Training Programme for 55 advocates from 11 districts at the Gujarat State Judicial Academy. The programme aimed at strengthening mediation skills and expanding the pool of trained mediators to promote effective alternative dispute resolution.
- **Training of Para Legal Volunteers for Nirbhaya Brigade:** GSLSA, in collaboration with UNICEF and SAUHARD, conducted an intensive training programme for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) under the second phase of the Nirbhaya Brigade Project. The initiative equipped PLVs to train children in five districts on awareness, safety, and legal empowerment.
- **Visit to Signal School (30th September, 2023):** Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA, along with the Executive Chairman, GSLSA, visited the Signal School and interacted with children, distributing educational and learning materials to encourage their holistic development.
- **STROKES – A Drawing Workshop (2nd October, 2023):** GSLSA, in association with the Juvenile Justice Committee, organized "STROKES", a drawing workshop for children of officers and employees of the High Court of Gujarat, promoting creativity, social awareness, and artistic expression through themes of childhood and inclusivity.
- **Coffee Table Book:** A Coffee Table Book showcasing selected artworks created during the STROKES Drawing Workshop was conceptualized and published to celebrate children's creativity and promote themes of social sensitivity and inclusion.
- **Chief Justice's Visit to City Civil Court, Ahmedabad (2nd December, 2023):** Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Executive Chairman, GSLSA visited the ADR Centre at City Civil Court, Ahmedabad, where compensation was awarded to victims and restorative justice measures were reviewed through direct interaction with beneficiaries.
- **Gujarat National Law University Event (20th December, 2023):** GSLSA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of Gujarat, organized a training programme for 150 Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) from four districts on women-centric laws and government welfare schemes, enhancing their capacity to spread legal awareness and support women in need.

- **Flower Show Stall at Sabarmati Riverfront (30th December, 2023 – 20th January, 2024):** Under the guidance of Hon'ble the Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA, a Legal Services Awareness Stall was set up at the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's Flower Show at Sabarmati Riverfront in association with the District Legal Services Authority, Ahmedabad (Rural). The stall attracted a large number of visitors and served as an effective platform for creating public awareness about legal aid services, legal rights, and the activities of the Legal Services Authorities.

Year 2024

- **Inauguration of Multiple Legal Services Projects (3rd February, 2024):**

  a) i. Psycho-Socio Care Centres for Jail Inmates: Building upon the success of the Psycho-Socio Care Centre at Sabarmati Central Jail, GSLSA expanded the initiative to the Central Jails of Rajkot, Surat, and Vadodara. The centres were virtually inaugurated on 3rd February, 2024, with the objective of promoting mental health, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of long-term prison inmates.

  b) ii. Two Days' Advocacy Skills Training Programme: GSLSA, in association with the Indian Institute of Legal & Professional Development, organized a two-day advocacy skills training programme for 96 Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs). The programme strengthened professional advocacy skills and enhanced the quality of free legal aid services across the State.

- **Inauguration of "UJAS – Ek Aasha ni Kiran" (19th April, 2024):** GSLSA launched "UJAS – Ek Aasha ni Kiran", establishing Permanent Pre-Litigation Matrimonial Lok Adalats at all District Legal Services Authorities and the City Civil Court, Ahmedabad. The initiative aims to promote amicable settlement of matrimonial disputes at the pre-litigation stage, reducing family conflicts and encouraging early reconciliation.
- **Inauguration of Mediation Rooms/Centres (19th April, 2024):** To strengthen access to mediation in rural areas, GSLSA inaugurated Mediation Rooms/Centres in 45 talukas across 19 districts. The initiative brings alternative dispute resolution closer to litigants, reducing the need to travel to district headquarters for mediation services.
- **Drawing Workshop for Signal School Children – Earth Day (20th April, 2024):** A special drawing workshop was organized for children of Signal School to commemorate Earth Day, promoting environmental awareness through creativity and artistic expression.
- **Flagging-off Ceremony of "બાલવાટિકા":** GSLSA launched "બાલવાટિકા", a pre-school initiative for children below six years, extending the successful Signal School model to early childhood education.
- **Legal Awareness Programme for Workers in the Unorganized Sector (23rd June, 2024):** A mega legal awareness programme educated unorganized sector workers on the NALSA Scheme, 2015 and various government welfare schemes.
- **Empowerment & Awareness Programme:** An awareness programme at Surat informed over 400 participants about government welfare schemes, e-Nirman Cards, and compensation benefits.
- **Three Days' Orientation Training Programme (26th–28th June, 2024):** GSLSA organized a three-day orientation programme for 130 Legal Aid Defence Counsels, enhancing their professional competence and service delivery.

- **Shala Praveshotsav – Signal School (28th June, 2024):** A total of 144 children of the Signal School were enrolled during Shala Praveshotsav, reinforcing GSLSA's commitment to inclusive education for children in vulnerable situations.
- **Supreme Court Special Lok Adalat:** GSLSA coordinated extensive preparatory activities for the Supreme Court Special Lok Adalat, facilitating amicable settlement of eligible pending cases.
- **STROKES (2nd October, 2024):** The second edition of "STROKES" witnessed enthusiastic participation by children, encouraging creativity, artistic talent, and social awareness.

Year 2025

- **Legal Awareness Stall at Flower Show, Sabarmati Riverfront:** GSLSA established a Legal Awareness Stall at the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's Flower Show at Sabarmati Riverfront to educate the public on legal rights and free legal aid services. Manned by Para Legal Volunteers and Panel Lawyers, the stall effectively reached thousands of visitors and promoted legal literacy among citizens.
- **40 Hours Mediation Training Programme (4th–8th February, 2025):** GSLSA organized a 40-Hour Mediation Training Programme for 73 advocates from talukas and the High Court, strengthening mediation skills and enhancing the capacity of legal professionals to promote alternative dispute resolution.
- **Special Lok Adalat (8th February, 2025):** A Special Lok Adalat for long- pending cases relating to cheque dishonour, motor accident claims, civil suits, land acquisition, and matrimonial disputes resulted in the settlement of thousands of cases with awards exceeding ₹110 crore. The initiative significantly contributed to reducing pendency through conciliation and amicable dispute resolution.
- **National Lok Adalat (8th March, 2025):** The First National Lok Adalat of 2025 witnessed remarkable success across Gujarat, with over 7 lakh cases settled and awards amounting to ₹2,743 crore. The event also achieved substantial settlements in pre-litigation matters, traffic e-challans, matrimonial disputes, and decade-old pending cases, reinforcing the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution.
- **Gender Sensitization Training – District Courts (7th April, 2025):** GSLSA conducted a one-day Gender Sensitization Programme for officers and employees of District Courts as part of the "Ehsas Nyay Ka Sabke Liye" campaign to promote gender equality and inclusive workplaces.
- **Gender Sensitization Training – Metropolitan & Industrial Courts (4th May, 2025):** A one-day training programme sensitized officers and employees of the Metropolitan Magistrates Court, Industrial Court, and Small Cause Court on gender neutrality and workplace equality.
- **40 Hours Mediation Training for Family Court Judges:** GSLSA launched a specialized mediation training programme for Family Court Judges to strengthen mediation-oriented adjudication and promote amicable settlement of family disputes.
- **Gender Sensitization Training – High Court Establishment:** A series of training programmes were organized for officers and employees of the High Court of Gujarat to promote awareness of gender equality, workplace dignity, and legal safeguards.

- **Special Mediation Drive – "Mediation for the Nation" Campaign:** GSLSA implemented NALSA's nationwide 90-day Mediation for the Nation Campaign, encouraging referral of suitable pending cases to mediation for speedy and amicable resolution.
- **Gender Sensitization Training (5th July, 2025):** A one-day programme sensitized High Court and GSLSA officers and employees on gender equality and elimination of workplace stereotypes.
- **Gender Sensitization Training (19th July, 2025):** GSLSA continued its gender sensitization initiative through another one-day training programme for High Court officers and staff.
- **NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana – Legal Services Clinic (26th July, 2025):** GSLSA established the first Legal Services Clinic in collaboration with the Rajya Sainik Board under NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana, 2025, providing dedicated legal assistance to defence personnel, ex-servicemen, and their families.
- **National Virtual Consultative Meeting by NALSA (23rd July, 2025):** GSLSA participated in NALSA's national consultative meeting on mediation, Lok Adalats, financial management, and institutional reforms, while showcasing Gujarat's innovative initiatives such as UJAS and Med-Arb Centre.
- **Legal Services Clinics – Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana (13th August, 2025):** Legal Services Clinics were established at 11 Zilla Sainik Boards across Gujarat to extend free and competent legal aid to defence personnel, veterans, and their dependents.
- **State Consultation on Safeguarding Girls from Harm (7th September, 2025):** GSLSA, in association with the High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, organized a State-level consultation on safeguarding girls, bringing together key government departments to strengthen child protection and implementation of welfare schemes.
- **Interactive Training Programme for Full-Time Secretaries (25th–26th September, 2025):** GSLSA organized an interactive training programme for Full-Time Secretaries of all District Legal Services Authorities to enhance institutional capacity and mediation management.
- **Inauguration of Mediation Centres in 73 Talukas (8th October, 2025):** Mediation Centres established in 73 talukas across Gujarat were virtually inaugurated, significantly expanding access to mediation services at the grassroots level.
- **40 Hours Mediation Training Programme (27th–31st October, 2025):** GSLSA organized another 40-Hour Mediation Training Programme for 121 advocates, further strengthening the State's mediation ecosystem.
- **Mediation Trainers' Training – Advance Capsule Course:** GSLSA initiated an advanced Training of Trainers Programme to develop a dedicated pool of mediator trainers within the State.
- **Gender Sensitization Training – High Court (6th December, 2025):** A one- day training programme under the "Ehsas Nyay Ka Sabke Liye" campaign promoted gender neutrality and workplace equality among High Court officers and employees.
- **Workshop on "Cyber Security & National Legal Services Authority":** GSLSA participated in a Cyber Security Workshop, creating awareness about free legal aid services and various NALSA welfare schemes among students and the public.

- **Interactive Role Play Mediation Training:** An interactive role-play training programme was conducted for Principal District Judges and High Court Registry officers to strengthen practical mediation skills.
- **Training of Potential Trainers Programme – Phase II:** GSLSA conducted the second phase of its Training of Trainers Programme to develop a sustainable cadre of certified mediation trainers across the State.

Year 2026

- **Legal Awareness & Community Outreach Initiatives (January–February 2026):** GSLSA continued its public legal awareness initiatives through stalls at the Kite Festival, educational visits for Signal School children, and the Mobile Van Campaign promoting the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat movement across Surendranagar, Kachchh, and Morbi. These outreach programmes effectively disseminated information on legal rights, child protection laws, cybercrime awareness, and NALSA welfare schemes to rural and urban communities alike.
- **Mediation Capacity Building & Professional Training (January–May 2026):** GSLSA organized a series of specialized mediation training programmes, including 40-Hour Mediation Trainings for Commercial Court Judges, newly selected advocates, retired Judicial Officers, advocates of District and Taluka Courts, and advanced Training of Trainers (ATS/CATS) programmes. These initiatives significantly strengthened Gujarat's mediation ecosystem and expanded the pool of qualified mediation trainers and professionals.
- **National Girl Child Day (24th January, 2026):** A drawing workshop for Signal School children was organized to celebrate National Girl Child Day and promote creativity, inclusion, and child empowerment.
- **Multiple Initiatives Launch (4th April, 2026):** During the Annual Conference of District Judiciary Judges, GSLSA launched multiple landmark initiatives including the flag-off of 25 Multi-Utility Vehicles, the Community Mediation (Trading Community) Initiative, and the certification of newly empanelled mediation trainers. These initiatives strengthened legal aid outreach, promoted community-based commercial dispute resolution, and enhanced mediation capacity across the State.
- **Training Programme for Legal Aid Defence Counsels (22nd–30th June, 2026):** GSLSA organized an extensive capacity-building programme for 277 Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), focusing on recent developments in criminal law, advocacy skills, and effective implementation of the NALSA Legal Aid Defence Counsel Scheme.
- **Shala Praveshotsav – Signal School Project (24th June, 2026):** Under the Signal School Project, 303 vulnerable children were enrolled into formal education, further strengthening rehabilitation and mainstream educational inclusion.
- **Drug Abuse Awareness Programme:** GSLSA organized an awareness programme on Drug Abuse and the DAWN Scheme at J.G. University, sensitizing youth about substance abuse prevention and legal awareness.
- **Workshop for Dowry Prohibition & Protection Officers (29th June, 2026):** A specialized training workshop enhanced the capacity of Dowry Prohibition Officers-cum-Protection Officers under the Domestic Violence Act and Dowry Prohibition Act

Details of Awareness and Outreach Programmes organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the year 2023:

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of programmes conducted	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	For Women	8153	118320
2	For Children	1846	152746
3	For Senior Citizens	962	18267
4	For Transgender	2	40
5	For Persons with Disabilities	120	5709
6	To spread awareness of various schemes	1025	212783
7	For NALSA Portals	107	2881
8	For Schools and Colleges	3160	258507
9	For Prisoners	486	20605

Details of Awareness and Outreach Programmes organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the year 2024:

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of programmes conducted	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	For Women	4491	120867
2	For Children	2721	114058
3	For Senior Citizens	1136	21849
4	For Transgender	0	0
5	For Persons with Disabilities	139	6241

6	To spread awareness of various schemes	1376	340006
7	For NALSA Portals	103	4033
8	For Schools and Colleges	4713	409856
9	For Prisoners	986	32351

Details of Awareness and Outreach Programmes organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the year 2025:

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of programmes conducted	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	For Women	3958	238523
2	For Children	3111	298725
3	For Senior Citizens	1210	92255
4	For Transgender	2	340
5	For Persons with Disabilities	330	23170
6	To spread awareness of various schemes	2443	802823
7	For NALSA Portals	220	12153
8	For Schools and Colleges	6130	558904
9	For Prisoners	1053	32813

Details regarding Capacity Building/Training Programmes organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the year 2023:

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of programmes conducted	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	For Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs)	35	1434
2	For Panel Lawyers	16	386
3	For Staff and others	6	100

Details regarding Capacity Building/Training Programmes organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the year 2024:

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of programmes conducted	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	For Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs)	97	2422
2	For Panel Lawyers	191	818
3	For Staff and others	28	64

Details regarding Capacity Building/Training Programmes organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the year 2025:

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of programmes conducted	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	For Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs)	118	3979
2	For Panel Lawyers	216	1140
3	For Staff and others	37	427

Details regarding Total No. of Legal Services Clinics organized by the District Legal Services Authorities of the State during the years 2023 to 2025:

Year	No. of Persons Visited	No. of Persons provided Legal Assistants
2023	374129	50553
2024	288370	61499
2025	146884	79148

Details of cases taken up & disposed of and amount awarded in the Lok Adalats held in the Gujarat State during the years 2023 to 2025:

Year	Cases Taken Up	Cases Disposed Off	Settlement Amount
2023	39,47,590	18,64,332	56,55,89,08,142.36
2024	44,52,303	21,78,860	55,78,96,37,042.00
2025	62,65,482	38,53,466	74,97,64,95,745.44
2026 (upto 30/06/2026)	24,34,695	13,98,787	30,74,80,93,744.78

High Court Legal Services Committee

- **National Lok Adalat** The High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC) organizes National Lok Adalats every quarter under the guidance of NALSA and the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority to facilitate amicable settlement of pending High Court cases. During the triennial period, Lok Adalats significantly contributed to speedy and cost-effective dispute resolution while awarding substantial compensation to litigants. The disposal rate consistently improved over the three years.

Year	No. of Matter Placed	No of Matter Disposed	Compensation Awarded
2023	900	483	39,00,28,053
2024	997	619	29,25,97,901
2025	673	482	25,28,82,074
2026 (upto 30/06/2026)	257	151	21,83,29,317

Legal Aid and Advice Application Statistics

- The Front Office of HCLSC functions on all working days to provide free legal aid and legal advice through Retainer Advocates. It assists litigants with legal consultation, conciliation, and urgent legal aid matters before the High Court. During 2023–2025, the Committee received more than eleven thousand applications, with nearly seventy-one percent resulting in legal aid.

Year	Total Application Received	Provide- Legal Aid	Provide Legal Advice
2023	3,207	2,352	855
2024	3,713	2,623	1,090
2025	4,391	3,050	1,341
Total	11,311	8,025	3,286

- Panel Advocates and Retainer Advocates

  To ensure competent legal representation for eligible beneficiaries, HCLSC has constituted a panel of advocates in accordance with NALSA Regulations, 2010. Separate Retainer Advocates have also been appointed to scrutinize legal aid applications and provide free legal advice to litigants.

- Helpline Number – 15100

  NALSA introduced the toll-free helpline 15100 to improve public access to legal assistance and information regarding legal services and Lok Adalats. Dedicated Panel Advocates of HCLSC render pro bono services through this helpline, strengthening the legal aid delivery mechanism

- Legal Aid Applications for Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)

  HCLSC forwards eligible legal aid applications along with translated documents to the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee for proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The number of applications increased substantially during 2025 due to the Mission Mode Programme.

Year	Legal Aid Applications
Year – 2023	58
Year – 2024	87
Year – 2025	263 (With Mission Mode Programmes Application)

- Vivad Samadhan Madhyam (VISAMA)

  VISAMA serves as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre primarily for resolving pension, gratuity, retirement and related disputes. Experienced retired Judges and senior officers provide conciliatory services, enabling litigants to resolve disputes without prolonged litigation. During the reporting period, a substantial number of disputes were amicably settled.

Applications Received	Cases Settled	Pending Cases (01.01.2026)
559	388	171

- Middle Income Group (MIG) Society

  The Middle Income Group (MIG) Scheme enables citizens belonging to the middle-income category to obtain affordable legal representation before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Gujarat High Court has also implemented the scheme, with the Chairman of HCLSC heading the initiative and a governing body overseeing its administration. Applicants can avail legal services on payment of nominal charges.

- Campaign for Terminally Ill and Old Prisoners (2025)

  Under the nationwide campaign launched by NALSA, HCLSC processed applications received from District Legal Services Authorities for vulnerable prisoners. Eligible cases were filed before the Hon'ble High Court, resulting in favourable orders under this humanitarian initiative.

Application Received	Proceeding filed before Hon'ble High Court
38	38

- Mission Mode Programme (2025)

Following directions of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, HCLSC identified eligible prison inmates requiring legal assistance before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Legal aid applications were scrutinized and forwarded to SCLSC in both electronic and physical formats to ensure timely legal support for eligible prisoners.

Data Received from Prison	192
Eligible for Legal Aid	140
Application forward to SCLSC	140

Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre

Introduction:

Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre (GHAC) was inaugurated on 20th February 2021 under the aegis of the High Court of Gujarat with the objective of strengthening institutional arbitration and promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in the State. The period covered in this Triennial Report reflects a phase of consolidation and expansion, marked by significant policy decisions of the Board of Governors, infrastructural development, capacity-building initiatives and the introduction of innovative ADR mechanisms.

From its inception, the GHAC has been guided by a clear vision to promote institutional arbitration as a preferred mode of dispute resolution by providing a professional, transparent, cost-effective and time-bound institutional framework.

Policy decisions have been taken to encourage the adoption of modern technological tools to improve access and efficiency in dispute resolution. Through the policy decisions, the GHAC seeks to contribute to the broader goal of enhancing the ease of doing business and commercial dispute resolution ecosystem in the State.

Governance and Administrative Framework:

The GHAC functions under the overall supervision and guidance of the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat. The governance structure of the Centre reflects a balanced institutional framework combining judicial oversight with professional expertise. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat serves as the Patron-In- Chief of the Centre. Now, the Board of Governors (BoG) comprises six Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat, the learned Advocate General, and a learned Designated Senior Advocate nominated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

During the period of last three years, the Board of Governors convened regular meetings and took several policy and administrative decisions aimed at strengthening the functioning of the Centre, expanding its services and enhancing accessibility for stakeholders.

In the early 2026, the Board of Governors approved significant reforms to further strengthen the governance framework of the Centre. The composition of the Board was expanded by including the learned Advocate General, State of Gujarat, and one Designated Senior Advocate nominated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice as Members of the Board. This policy decision is expected to enhance stakeholder participation, strengthen institutional governance and facilitate closer interaction with the arbitration Bar while reinforcing the Centre's position as a premier arbitral institution.

Infrastructure and Facilities:

During the triennial period, significant steps were taken to strengthen the physical and operational infrastructure of the Centre. Recognizing the growing demand for arbitration facilities, the Board of Governors resolved to extend the working hours of the Centre from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. to facilitate greater convenience for arbitrators, advocates and litigants. Further, the Centre was directed to remain open on Saturdays and Sundays (10:00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m.) {except public holidays}, thereby ensuring enhanced accessibility and flexibility for arbitration proceedings. To address increasing infrastructural requirements, two additional rooms at the Gujarat High Court Auditorium premises were made available for arbitration proceedings. The Board of Governors also approved the augmentation of staff strength in order to ensure efficient case management and administrative assistance. In furtherance of this decision, the services of three additional Deputy Section Officers, One Computer Operator and Five Legal Assistants have been made available to assist arbitrators, thereby facilitating research support and smoother conduct of proceedings. A separate room was created for the staff to ensure adequate workspace and to facilitate the efficient discharge of administrative responsibilities of the Centre. Through these measures, the GHAC has been able to provide robust logistical and administrative support for arbitration proceedings at nominal institutional charges, thereby widening access to institutional arbitration.

The Board of Governors also resolved to strengthen and update the computer infrastructure of the Centre, with a view to enhancing technological support for arbitration and administrative operations.

Panel of Arbitrators:

A key focus area was the formulation and refinement of guidelines governing empanelment of arbitrators. Efforts were initiated to ensure that empanelment is undertaken on the basis of eligibility, professional competence, integrity and experience, thereby enhancing the credibility and acceptability of the Centre’s Panel of Arbitration. The Board of Governors resolved to invite designated Senior Advocates to be empanelled as arbitrators, thereby strengthening the expertise and experience available to parties choosing institutional arbitration at Centre. The inclusion of experienced professionals from diverse legal and commercial backgrounds has contributed significantly to the credibility, efficiency and quality of arbitral proceedings conducted under the aegis of the GHAC. The Board of Governors also resolved to initiate steps for the inclusion of experts and domain specialists in the panel, with a view to broadening the range of professional expertise available for the effective resolution of specialised disputes.

In order to broaden and strengthen the Panel of Arbitrators, the Centre also resolved to empanel Designated Senior Advocates of the High Court of Gujarat as Arbitrators. The inclusion of eminent members of the Bar is expected to improve the quality of arbitral proceedings and enhance stakeholder confidence in institutional arbitration.

Capacity Building and Outreach:

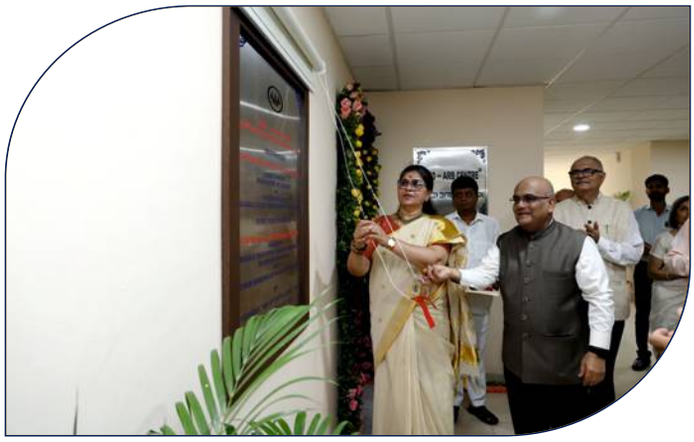
Capacity building and stakeholder engagement have remained key focus areas for the GHAC during the triennial period. In collaboration with Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) and Gujarat State Judicial Academy (GSJA), the Centre organized training programmes and academic initiatives aimed at enhancing the understanding and practice of arbitration and mediation. A notable initiative during this period was the two-day conference held in May- 2024 on the theme Mediation: A Tool for Arbitration & Commercial Courts. Such initiatives have contributed to increasing awareness, improving professional skills and fostering a culture of amicable and efficient dispute resolution. Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, in collaboration with the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre organized yearly conferences on arbitration, bringing together arbitrators, legal practitioners and other stakeholders to deliberate on contemporary developments and challenges in institutional arbitration. Besides the annual arbitration conferences organized in collaboration with the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA), the Centre successfully organized the National Conference on Institutional Arbitration in February–March 2026, bringing together leading judges, arbitrators, senior advocates and policymakers from across the country.



To promote practical understanding of institutional arbitration among aspiring legal professionals, the Board of Governors approved a structured Internship Programme for law students. The programme provides participants with first- hand exposure to arbitral proceedings, institutional administration and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Centre has also permitted educational visits by law schools and universities to familiarize students with the functioning of institutional arbitration. These visits bridge the gap between legal education and practical application while encouraging greater interest in arbitration and ADR.

Introduction of Med-Arb and Mediation Initiatives:





One of the most significant institutional developments during this period has been the introduction of the Med-Arb framework, undertaken under the guidance and leadership of Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal. The Med-Arb Centre was inaugurated on 15th August 2024, marking an important milestone in the evolution of integrated ADR services at the GHAC. Under this framework, disputes are initially referred to mediation conducted by trained mediators, primarily advocates who have undergone specialised mediation training. In cases where mediation does not culminate in settlement, the matter seamlessly proceeds to arbitration. The Med-Arb model has received an encouraging response from stakeholders, with a notable rate of dispute resolution through mediation, thereby saving time, cost and effort for the parties. An especially noteworthy aspect of the Med-Arb initiative is the pro bono contribution of eleven mediators trained by the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC). These mediators have voluntarily rendered their services without remuneration, and have consented to continue their pro bono services until 15th August 2026, reflecting their commitment to strengthening accessible and effective dispute resolution mechanisms. In order to strengthen this initiative, the Board of Governors has recently resolved to include eleven additional MCPC-trained mediators in the Med-Arb Centre, thereby expanding the panel and enhancing the Centre's mediation capacity.



In addition, the Centre has expanded its mediation services to commercial disputes referred by tribunals such as the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT). This development marks a significant expansion of the Centre's ADR services beyond traditional arbitration

Infrastructure Expansion and Administrative Reforms:



The steady growth in the number and complexity of arbitration and mediation matters has necessitated further institutional strengthening. Recognizing this need, the Board of Governors approved several administrative and developmental initiatives during the triennial period. One such initiative is the introduction of an Internship Programme for law students, aimed at providing academic exposure to institutional arbitration and ADR practices. The BoG has also granted permission for educational visits by law colleges, thereby promoting awareness of institutional dispute resolution among future legal professionals. A major milestone was achieved on 28th February 2026 with the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the new State-of-the-Art Building of the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Gujarat. The occasion also marked the unveiling of the commemorative plaque, symbolizing the Centre's long-term vision for strengthening institutional arbitration in the State.

Digital Initiatives and Technology Adoption:

Recognizing the growing importance of technology in dispute resolution, the GHAC has taken several steps toward digital transformation. The Centre has adopted virtual and hybrid hearing facilities on a significant scale, enabling arbitrators and parties to participate in proceedings with greater flexibility and efficiency. Additionally, work is presently in progress to develop a comprehensive Case Information System (CIS). The Board of Governors has resolved to develop a comprehensive e-filing platform integrating various digital facilities for filing, case management and communication with stakeholders. As part of this digital initiative, the introduction of an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanism has also been proposed to facilitate efficient, technology-enabled resolution of disputes. These initiatives reflect the GHAC's commitment to aligning its practices with national and international best standards in institutional arbitration and ADR administration.

The GHAC has witnessed a steady increase in the number of matters administered under its institutional framework. Arbitration matters referred to or administered by the Centre during this period have included disputes relating to commercial contracts, infrastructure projects, financial transactions and other civil and commercial matters. The introduction of the Med-Arb framework has further contributed to expeditious settlement of disputes by enabling parties to explore mediation before proceeding to arbitration.

GHAC
GUJARAT HIGH COURT
ARBITRATION CENTRE

During the event on 28th February 2026, the Centre unveiled its newly designed logo and launched its redesigned website. The new institutional identity reflects the Centre's commitment to accessibility, transparency, technological advancement and internationally accepted standards of institutional arbitration.

Landmark Events and Institutional Milestones:

The year 2026 marked a significant phase in the evolution of the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre with the successful organization of several landmark initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional arbitration.

Release of Inaugural Newsletter:



The inaugural edition of the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre Newsletter was released during the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony. The newsletter serves as an institutional platform for disseminating knowledge, documenting developments, sharing best practices and fostering greater engagement with arbitration stakeholders.

Statistical Data:

Arbitration Cases

Sr. No.	Year	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1.	2023	124	101	23
2.	2024	100	29	71
3.	2025	211	15	196

Mediation Reference (Med-Arb)

Sr. No.	Year	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1.	2024	12	12	00
2.	2025	26	20	06

Overall, the triennial period reflects a transformative phase in the growth of the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre. Through progressive policy reforms, expansion of infrastructure, introduction of Med-Arb, digital transformation, capacity-building initiatives, national-level conferences and governance reforms, the Centre has substantially strengthened institutional arbitration in Gujarat. The Foundation Stone Laying of the new Arbitration Centre building, launch of the new institutional identity and successful conduct of the National Conference in 2026 represent important milestones that position the Centre as an emerging national institution for arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.



CHAPTER 07

Judicial Education and Training

Gujarat State Judicial Academy

Gujarat State Judicial Academy

Activities During The Year 2023

The Gujarat State Judicial Academy (GSJA) substantially expanded its training activities by conducting induction, orientation and in-service programmes for Judicial Officers, High Court and District Judiciary staff, and various stakeholders. Major initiatives included the West Zone-II Regional Conference, Computer Skill Enhancement Programme, Animal Law sensitization, mediation training for Family Courts, stress management programmes, and extensive e-Committee outreach for Advocates and Advocate Clerks. Special focus was also given to Executive Magistrates, Police Officers, Public Prosecutors and Insurance Officials.

Training Programmes During the Year 2023

Sr. No.	Category	Sub-Group / Programme	Participants
1	Induction Training	District Judges(Promotion)	70
2	Induction Training	Senior Civil Judges (Promotion)	72
3	Induction Training	Civil Judges & JMFC – Field Training	55
4	Induction Training	Civil Judges & JMFC – Institutional Training	55
5	Induction Training	Deputy Section Officers / Translators (HC)	59
6	In-Service Training – District Judges	9 Workshops/Seminars (SC/ST, Family, POCSO, IPR, Motor Vehicle, Judicial Admin, etc.)	223
7	Composite Training Senior Civil Judges, Civil Judges, Labour & Industrial Court Judges	13 Workshops/Seminars (Medical Evidence, Gender Justice, Succession Act, Cyber Law, Labour Law, Juvenile Justice, NI Act, etc.)	772
8	Composite Training Senior Civil Judges, Civil Judges, Labour & Industrial Court Judges	Stress Management, Regional Conference, Computer Skill Enhancement, Judgment Writing, Mediation, Animal Law, On Hon'ble Apex Court Directions etc.	2,505

9	Staff Training – High Court & District Judiciary	DSO, Translators, Registrars, Section Officers, PPS/PS/Stenographers	665
10	Other Stakeholders	Advocates, Police Officers, Insurance Officers, Legal Aid Counsel, APPs, Executive Magistrates, Public Prosecutors, Advocate Clerks	4250

Activities During The Year 2024

GSJA focused on implementation of the new criminal laws, digital transformation and capacity building through national conferences, specialised workshops, judicial seminars and Training of Trainers programmes. Significant initiatives included the All India District Judges' Conference at Dhordo, statewide orientation on the Bharatiya criminal laws, eCourts Phase-III workshops, judicial conferences, digitization training and extensive programmes for court staff and other stakeholders. Training activities also expanded to district-level programmes covering the entire State Judiciary.

Training Programmes During the Year 2024

Sr. No.	Category	Sub-Group / Programme	Participants
1	Induction Training	Civil Judges & JMFC – Field Training (Batch 2023-2)	13
2	Induction Training	Civil Judges & JMFC – Institutional Training (Batch 2023-1 & 2)	68
3	Induction Training	Excursion Training – Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy (Batch 1 & 2)	68
4	Induction Training	Newly Promoted Deputy Section Officers / Translators (2 batches)	88
5	In-Service Training – Judicial Officers	23 Workshops/Seminars (Medical Evidence, POCSO, Sessions Trials, Commercial Litigation, Bail & Bond, ADR, Cyber Law, Succession, Environment Law, etc.)	1238
6	Special Training Programmes – Judicial	Mediation, ToT (CEELI Institute), Dhordo Conference, Digitization, New Criminal Laws Orientation, eCourts Phase-III, Animal Protection, Judicial Conference, Juvenile Justice, Excursion (Odisha) etc.	2,746

Sr. No.	Category	Sub-Group / Programme	Participants
7	Staff Training – HC & District Judiciary	Registry Staff, Section Officers, Bailiffs/ Process Servers, Digitization (District Judiciary), NC-CIS Training, English Communication	1881
8	Other Stakeholders	Protection Officers (Domestic Violence Act and Dowry Prohibition Act), Advocates (Mediation, LADC), Executive Magistrates (Deputy Mamlatdars)	929
9	District-Level Training	Orientation on New Criminal Laws (BNS, BNSS, BSA) – All Judicial Officers of Gujarat	1100

Activities During The Year 2025

GSJA further strengthened continuous judicial education by emphasizing specialised subject-oriented workshops, mediation, child rights, cyber law, commercial disputes, bail jurisprudence and newly introduced criminal laws. Large-scale e-Committee programmes, digital skill enhancement, refresher courses for court staff, mediation training, stakeholder capacity building and specialised programmes for Family Court Counsellors and Executive Magistrates significantly increased the outreach and coverage across Gujarat.

Training Programmes During the Year 2025

Sr. No.	Category	Sub-Group / Programme	Participants
1	Induction Training	Institutional Training – District Judges (65% quota + 10% quota)	72
2	Induction Training	Orientation Training – Newly promoted Senior Civil Judges	123
3	In-Service Training – Judicial Officers	28 Workshops/Seminars (Custody Proceedings, New Criminal Laws, Ethics, Arbitration, Mediation, Labour Law, Sessions Trials, Bail Jurisprudence, Succession, Child Sexual Abuse, Commercial Disputes, Anti-Human Trafficking, Land Laws, Sentencing Policy, etc.)	1043

4	Special Training Programmes – Judicial Officers	Child Forensics (POCSO), Evidence Recording, Family Court Counsellors, New Criminal Laws (CDTI Jaipur), Judgment Writing, IP Awareness, Roleplay Training (GSLSA), Virtual English Communication etc	661
5	Special Training – Judicial Officers & Other Stakeholders	Mediation for Advocates, NDPS Orientation (Judges + Police), Joint Workshop on New Criminal Laws, Arbitration Conference, Mediation (Batch 1–4), Advanced Mediator Course, ToT for Mediators	888+
6	E-Committee Training – Judicial Officers of the Gujarat State	Master Trainer Programmes, eCourts Programme, Computer Skills, Cyber Crime & Evidence	3207+

Activities During The Year 2026

During the first half of 2026, the Gujarat State Judicial Academy (GSJA) conducted an extensive programme of judicial education and capacity-building for Judicial Officers, High Court and District Judiciary staff, Advocates, Police Officers, Public Prosecutors, and other stakeholders. Special emphasis was placed on the implementation of recent judicial pronouncements, commercial laws, arbitration, motor accident claims, cyber law, mediation, juvenile justice, labour and industrial laws, e-Courts, and digital court administration through conferences, workshops, induction programmes and e-Committee training initiatives. Overall, the Academy conducted 71 training programmes, benefiting approximately 15,652 participants, thereby reinforcing professional competence and promoting technology-enabled, efficient judicial administration across the State.

Training Programmes During the Year 2026

Sr. No.	Category	Sub-Group / Programme	Participants
1	In-Service Training	Judicial Officers (District Judges, Senior Civil Judges, Civil Judges, Family Court Judges, POCSO Judges, JJB, Labour Court Judges, etc.)	634
2	Special Training	Child Forensics (POCSO), Evidence Recording, Family Court Counsellors, New Criminal Laws (CDTI Jaipur), Judgment Writing, IP Awareness, Roleplay Training (GSLSA), Virtual English Communication etc	661
3	e-Committee Training	Judicial Officers, High Court Registry Staff and District Judiciary Staff	12,594
4	Other Stakeholders	High Court Staff, District Judiciary Staff, Deputy Section Officers, Librarians, Registrars and allied stakeholders	470
5	Judicial Officers' Annual Conference	Annual Conference of Judges of the District Judiciary	1158
6	Special Session	Special Session for Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs)	8

CHAPTER 08

Judicial Performance and Impact

Significant Judgements of the Hon'ble Chief Justice/Judges

Performance Analysis: A Statistical Perspective

Significant Judgements of the Hon'ble Chief Justice/Judges

1. Contracts, Tenancy, and the Limits of Law: Hon'ble Chief Justice's Larger Bench Ruling on Section 43 and the Fate of Specific Performance Suits

Deceased Shaikh Ismailbhai Husainbhai (through legal heirs) v. Vankar Ambalal Dhanabhai
Bench: Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal,
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Shastri, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant M. Prachchhak
(Per- Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal)
Case Number: SA/208/2021

This reference to a Larger Bench arose from conflicting Division Bench views on whether a suit for specific performance based on an agreement to sell agricultural land is maintainable when the agreement itself is hit by Section 43 of the Gujarat Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948. Section 43 prohibits transfer or even an agreement to transfer restricted tenure land without prior sanction of the Collector, declaring such transactions "invalid." Earlier benches had diverged: one view suggested that invalidity did not render the agreement void ab initio and that the trial court must examine enforceability during trial; another held that such agreements are void and incapable of enforcement, warranting rejection of the plaint under Order VII Rule 11 CPC at the threshold. The matter was thus placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice's Bench to resolve the conflict. Counsel for both sides, along with the State, argued extensively one set urging that agreements, though irregular, could still be tested in trial, while the other pressed that contracts forbidden by statute are void under Section 23 of the Contract Act and cannot form the basis of specific performance.

The Larger Bench, speaking through the Hon'ble Chief Justice, delivered a decisive opinion: agreements to sell restricted tenure land without Collector's sanction are invalid and unenforceable, and suits seeking specific performance of such contracts are not maintainable. The Court clarified that the jurisdiction to decree specific performance rests only upon a valid and enforceable contract; where the foundation itself is unlawful, courts cannot breathe life into it. Reaffirming precedents like Ganpatlal Manjibhai Khatri and Vijaybhai Shambhubhai Patel, and noting the Supreme Court's refusal to interfere with those rulings, the Bench held that the earlier contrary view in Amarben was per incuriam. It emphasized that Order VII Rule 11 CPC empowers courts to reject plaints at the threshold when the suit is founded on a void agreement, sparing parties needless trial. In literary cadence, the judgment emphasize that specific performance is not the art of creating contracts where none exist, but the solemn duty of enforcing only those obligations born of lawful agreements. This ruling thus settles the law in Gujarat: Section 43's bar is absolute, and contracts forbidden by it cannot be enforced, marking a landmark in tenancy jurisprudence and the doctrine of valid enforceable contracts.

2. Regularisation Upheld for Long-Serving Daily Wagers: High Court Affirms Tribunal's Finding of Unfair Labour Practice by Municipality

Amreli Municipality v. Saurashtra Shramik Sangh & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devan M. Desai
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria)
Case Number: LPA/828/2023

These Letters Patent Appeals arose from a common judgment dated 05.08.2022, wherein the learned Single Judge upheld awards passed by the Industrial Tribunal directing regularisation of long-serving daily-rated workmen employed by Amreli Municipality. The Tribunal had found that the workmen engaged since the late 1980s and early 1990s had rendered continuous service for over three decades in permanent roles such as Health Supervisor and Valveman, yet were denied regular appointments. The Tribunal relied on documentary evidence including sanctioned setup charts (Exhs. 35, 40, 59) and oral admissions by municipal officials to conclude that sanctioned posts were available and that juniors had already been regularised. The Tribunal directed that the workmen be appointed as clerks or equivalent Class-IV posts, with notional benefits for fixation of pay but without arrears. The Municipality challenged these directions, arguing that the appointments were irregular, that the workmen were backdoor entrants, and that the Tribunal had misread the setup data. The employer relied on the Supreme Court's decision in Umadevi (2006) and a prior Gujarat High Court ruling in Amreli Municipality (2004) to argue against regularisation.

The Division Bench dismissed the appeals, affirming that the Tribunal and Single Judge had correctly applied the law in light of the factual matrix. The Court held that the Municipality's conduct retaining workers for decades on daily wages despite availability of sanctioned posts constituted unfair labour practice under Section 25T read with Item 10 of the Fifth Schedule to the Industrial Disputes Act. It distinguished Umadevi, noting that the present case involved not irregular appointees but long-serving workers performing permanent duties under exploitative conditions. Citing Hari Nandan Prasad (2014), Raja Ram (2004), and ONGC v. Kishan Gopal (2020), the Court reiterated that where sanctioned posts exist and similarly situated workers have been regularised, denial of parity violates Article 14. The Court emphasized that the Tribunal's directions were limited, requiring regularisation only against available posts and in accordance with seniority. It concluded that the findings of fact regarding sanctioned vacancies and continuous service were well-supported by evidence and that the relief granted was both legally sound and equitable. This judgment reinforces the principle that public employers cannot perpetuate casualisation to evade regularisation obligations and that long-term daily wagers performing regular work are entitled to dignity, security, and equal treatment under the law.

3. Reassessment Proceedings Against Deceased Assessee Held Void: High Court Quashes Notice and Assessment Order Issued Posthumously

Pravinchandra A. Shah (Legal Heir of Late Saryuben P. Shah) v. Union of India & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul M. Pancholi and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devan M. Desai
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul M. Pancholi)
Case Number: SCA/5451/2022

This case arose from a reassessment proceeding initiated under Section 148 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, against a deceased assessee, Saryuben P. Shah, whose income for AY 2015–16 had already been assessed under scrutiny and accepted by the department in 2017. Despite her demise on 16.02.2021, the Income Tax Department issued a notice dated 27.03.2021 in her name, initiating reassessment proceedings. Her legal heir, Pravinchandra A. Shah, filed a return in response and requested the reasons for reopening. Upon learning of the death, the department issued a second notice in the name of the petitioner but ultimately passed the assessment order again in the name of the deceased. The petitioner challenged the entire proceeding as void ab initio, arguing that the issuance of notice and assessment order against a dead person was a jurisdictional defect that could not be cured by procedural provisions like Sections 292B or 292BB. He relied on a series of authoritative precedents, including Chandreshbhai Jayantibhai Patel (Gujarat), Rajender Kumar Sehgal (Delhi), and the Supreme Court's ruling in Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., to argue that such proceedings are non est in law and must be quashed.

The High Court accepted the petitioner's contentions in full, holding that the issuance of a notice under Section 148 to a deceased person is a fundamental jurisdictional error that renders the entire proceeding null and void. The Court emphasized that once the department was informed of the death, it was legally bound to initiate proceedings, if at all, against the legal heir in accordance with Section 159 of the Act. The Court rejected the department's argument that the petitioner's initial participation cured the defect, clarifying that neither Section 292B nor 292BB can validate a proceeding initiated against a non-existent person. The Court drew strength from the Supreme Court's ruling in Maruti Suzuki, which held that jurisdictional notices issued to non-existent entities even if followed by participation are void and cannot be saved by estoppel or procedural regularization. The Court also noted that the assessment order was ultimately passed in the name of the deceased, despite the second notice being addressed to the legal heir, further compounding the illegality. Accordingly, the Court quashed both the reassessment notices and the assessment order. This judgment reinforces a critical procedural safeguard in tax law: that jurisdictional compliance is not a mere formality but a substantive requirement. It affirms that legal heirs cannot be drawn into reassessment proceedings unless the department initiates proceedings afresh, with proper notice and authority, against them in their representative capacity. The ruling serves as a strong precedent against administrative overreach and underscores the constitutional value of procedural fairness in quasi-judicial tax proceedings.

4. Amendment in Written Statement Allowed: High Court Reverses Trial Court's Refusal, Upholds Defendants' Right to Clarify Trademark Defence

Microsoft Corporation & Anr. v. Azure Knowledge Corporation Pvt. Ltd.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Shastri and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Divyesh A. Joshi
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Shastri)
Case Number: SCA/9620/2023

This writ petition arose from a trademark infringement suit filed by Azure Knowledge Corporation Pvt. Ltd. against Microsoft Corporation and its Indian subsidiary, alleging unauthorized use of the mark "AZURE." The suit, originally filed in 2020, was transferred to the Commercial Court, Ahmedabad, and registered as Commercial Civil Suit No. 533 of 2021. Microsoft, the defendant, filed a written statement denying any overlap in goods or services and asserting that its cloud computing platform "AZURE" was distinct from the plaintiff's business activities. After the interim injunction was rejected and the appeal withdrawn, Microsoft sought to amend its written statement under Order VI Rule 17 CPC to clarify that the plaintiff's trademark registrations were overly broad and based on unsubstantiated claims of use since 1996. The amendment also sought to assert that one registered proprietor cannot sue another for infringement, referencing Microsoft's own registration of "WINDOWS AZURE." The trial court rejected the amendment, holding that it amounted to withdrawal of admissions and would prejudice the plaintiff. Microsoft challenged this refusal before the High Court under Article 227 of the Constitution.

The High Court allowed the petition, holding that the trial court had erred in treating the proposed amendment as a withdrawal of admissions. It emphasized that the defendants had not sought to delete any existing paragraphs but merely to clarify and expand their defence. The Court distinguished between acknowledgment of a trademark's registration and admission of its validity, noting that public record entries do not preclude a party from challenging the scope or enforceability of a mark. It reaffirmed that defendants are entitled to raise alternative or even inconsistent pleas in their written statement, provided they do not retract clear and unequivocal admissions. The Court also rejected the plaintiff's argument that the amendment would prejudice its case, observing that the suit was still at the pre-issue stage and that the amendment would facilitate a more complete adjudication of the dispute. Relying on precedents including Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal v. K.K. Modi and Usha Balashaheb Swami v. Kiran Appaso Swami, the Court held that the trial court's refusal was legally unsustainable and contrary to settled principles governing pleadings in commercial litigation. Accordingly, the impugned order was quashed and the amendment was permitted. This judgment reinforces the procedural flexibility afforded to defendants in trademark disputes and clarifies that registration alone does not immunize a mark from scrutiny or challenge within the pleadings framework.

5. Rectification Notices Quashed: High Court Holds AO Cannot Revisit 10A Deduction Beyond Appellate Scope or Limitation

Mastek Limited v. Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Circle-2(1)(2)
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren Vaishnav and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren Vaishnav)
Case Number: SCA/3971/2019

These petitions challenged rectification notices issued under Section 154 of the Income Tax Act, and one under Section 263, seeking to recompute deductions under Section 10A for various assessment years between 2008–09 and 2013–14. The petitioner, a public limited IT services company, had claimed 10A deductions which were accepted in the original assessments and not disputed in appeal. The Revenue later issued rectification notices alleging that the Assessing Officer had wrongly allowed set-off of losses from eligible 10A units against other income, citing the Supreme Court's decision in CIT v. Yokogawa India Ltd. The petitioner argued that the rectification was time-barred, exceeded the scope of appellate directions, and misinterpreted Yokogawa. It was contended that the issue of 10A deduction was never part of the appeal and hence could not be revisited through rectification. The petitioner also emphasized that the alleged mistake was debatable and not apparent from the record, and that the Assessing Officer's jurisdiction was confined to implementing appellate relief, not reopening settled deductions.

The High Court allowed the petitions, holding that the rectification notices were without jurisdiction and barred by limitation under Section 154(7). It found that the original assessment order dated 02.02.2012 had allowed the 10A deduction correctly, and that subsequent appellate orders did not touch upon the 10A issue. Therefore, any rectification had to be confined to the original order and could not be extended beyond four years from its date. The Court relied on precedent including Poonjabhai Vanmalidas and Karsandas Bhagwandas Patel to affirm that the doctrine of merger does not apply to untouched portions of an assessment order. It also held that the Revenue's interpretation of Yokogawa was flawed, noting that the decision clarified the stage and manner of 10A deduction but did not prohibit set-off of losses in the manner alleged. Since the issue involved legal debate and interpretation, it could not be treated as a mistake apparent from the record. Accordingly, all impugned notices were quashed. This judgment reinforces the principle that rectification powers cannot be used to reopen settled assessments or reinterpret law under the guise of correcting errors.

6. Tender Years Rule Applied: High Court Grants Custody of Two-Year- Old Girl to Mother in Habeas Corpus Petition, Father Given Weekly Visitation

Aparna Jigarbha Vala v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.Y. Kogje and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra M. Sareen
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.Y. Kogje)
Case Number: SCR.A/9733/2023

This habeas corpus petition was filed by a young mother seeking custody of her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Hiya, who had been separated from her during a matrimonial dispute. The petitioner alleged that she was driven out of her matrimonial home in Vadodara and the child was forcibly taken away by her husband. Despite lodging a police complaint and filing an application under Section 97 CrPC before the Magistrate at Bhavnagar, she was denied relief, prompting her to approach the High Court. The Court initially granted interim custody to the mother and referred the parties to mediation, which failed. The father opposed the habeas corpus petition, arguing that custody disputes must be resolved under the Guardians and Wards Act and that as the natural guardian under Section 6 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, he was entitled to retain custody. He also contended that the child was settled in her current environment and that habeas corpus was not maintainable.

The High Court, however, reaffirmed that habeas corpus is maintainable in child custody matters where the paramount consideration is the welfare of the minor. Relying on Supreme Court precedents including Rajeshwari Chandrasekar Ganesh (2022), Yashita Sahu (2020), and its own ruling in Sejalben Arpit Shah (2019), the Court emphasized the "tender years rule," which prescribes that custody of children below five years should ordinarily remain with the mother. It observed that while the father is the natural guardian, the welfare of a female child of tender age lies in the company of her mother, whose love and care cannot be substituted. The Court rejected allegations that the mother was negligent, noting that miscarriage was medically explained and that she had consistently sought custody. Confirming its interim order, the Court directed that the child remain with the mother until appropriate guardianship proceedings are initiated, while granting the father visitation rights every Sunday from 9 AM to 9 PM. The judgment underscores that in custody disputes, legal technicalities yield to the overarching principle of child welfare, ensuring both parents remain connected to the child while prioritizing her best interests.

7. "Human Rights Are Not a Privilege": High Court Initiates Contempt Against Policemen for Public Flogging of Citizens, Reaffirming D.K. Basu Guidelines

Jahirmiya Rehamumiya Malek v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Supehia and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Gopi
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Supehia)
Case Number: MCA/1067/2022

This contempt application arose from a shocking incident during Garba festivities at Village Undhela, District Kheda, on 3–4 October 2022. The complainants alleged that they were illegally detained by police officers, taken to the SOG Police Station, and then brought back to the village square the next day, tied to a pole, and brutally beaten with sticks in full public view. Videos of the flogging were recorded, circulated widely, and reported in the press. The complainants argued that this conduct flagrantly violated the Supreme Court's binding directions in D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997), which laid down safeguards against custodial abuse, and therefore amounted to contempt of court under Section 2(b) read with Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. The respondents contended that the application was not maintainable, but the High Court had earlier held it maintainable and directed the Chief Judicial Magistrate to verify the video evidence and identify the officers involved. The Magistrate's report confirmed the presence and active role of several policemen, including Inspector A.V. Parmar and Head Constable Kanaksinh Laxmansinh, in the public assault.

The High Court, quoting Mother Teresa's words "Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity" underscored that custodial torture and public humiliation strike at the heart of Article 21 of the Constitution. It reviewed established facts: the complainants were detained overnight, shown as arrested only after the public flogging, and produced before the Magistrate the following day with medical certificates recording "assault by police." The Court noted multiple infirmities: false arrest memos, absence of relatives' signatures, and deliberate manipulation of timings to cover up illegal detention. Relying on precedents including Priya Gupta v. Ministry of Health (2013), Dr. Mehmood Nayyar Azam v. State of Chhattisgarh (2012), and Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P. (1994), the Court emphasized that torture whether physical, mental, or reputational violates the dignity inherent in the right to life. It condemned the police officers' conduct as a "flagrant violation of law" and held that obedience to Supreme Court guidelines is not optional but mandatory under Article 141. Charges were framed against identified officers, while proceedings were dropped against others not seen participating. The Court stressed that custodians of law must never become violators of civil liberties, and contempt jurisdiction exists to uphold judicial authority and protect citizens from state excesses. This judgment stands as a stern reminder that public flogging and custodial harassment are not only criminal wrongs but also contempt of the Supreme Court's binding directions, and that human dignity remains inviolable even in custody.

8. Ex-Jagirdars' Claim for Compensation for Mineral Extraction Rejected: Gujarat High Court Upholds Vesting of Mineral Rights in the State

Jamsherkhanji T. Tunvar (deceased through legal heirs) & Ors. v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh A. Trivedi and Hon'ble Mrs. Justice M.K. Thakker
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh A. Trivedi)
Case Number: FA/4063/1995

This First Appeal arose from the judgment and decree of the trial court dismissing a civil suit filed by the legal heirs of the ex-Jagirdars of Village Babsar, Taluka-Idar, District-Sabarkantha. The plaintiffs sought recovery of ₹28.14 lakh from the State of Gujarat, alleging that the Public Works Department had extracted large quantities of stone and metal from Survey Nos. 71 and 294 during the construction of the Dharoi Irrigation Project without their consent and without payment of compensation. They contended that the lands formed part of a proprietary Jagir and that their rights over the mines and minerals had been preserved under Section 10 of the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953. Reliance was placed on earlier proceedings before the Jagir Abolition Officer, the Special Deputy Collector and the Gujarat Revenue Tribunal, which had recognized certain subsisting rights in the mines and minerals.

The State resisted the suit by contending that, by virtue of the retrospective amendments introduced through the Bombay Land Revenue Code and Land Tenure Abolition Laws (Gujarat Amendment) Act, 1982, all rights in mines and minerals situated in Jagir villages vested in the State with effect from the appointed date under the Jagirs Abolition Act. It was further argued that any claim for compensation in respect of such vesting could only be pursued under the special statutory mechanism contained in Section 21A of the Act and not by way of a civil suit claiming the market value of minerals allegedly extracted by the Government.

The Gujarat High Court dismissed the appeal and affirmed the judgment of the trial court. The Court held that the retrospective amendment to Section 10 of the Jagirs Abolition Act had the effect of vesting all mines and minerals in the State from the appointed date, thereby extinguishing any subsisting proprietary rights of the ex-Jagirdars in respect of those minerals. Consequently, even if the plaintiffs had earlier claimed rights over the mines and minerals, those rights could not survive after the statutory amendment. The Court further held that any entitlement to compensation arising from such statutory vesting was governed exclusively by Section 21A of the Act, and therefore a civil suit seeking damages or the market value of minerals allegedly extracted by the State was not maintainable.

The High Court also observed that the earlier administrative and revenue orders relied upon by the plaintiffs could not override or defeat the legal effect of the retrospective statutory amendment. Since the rights claimed by the plaintiffs stood extinguished by operation of law, those orders did not confer an enforceable right to recover compensation through a civil action. The Court therefore found no error in the trial court's dismissal of the suit.

Accordingly, the First Appeal was dismissed, the decree of the trial court was affirmed, and the plaintiffs' claim for ₹28.14 lakh towards the alleged unauthorized extraction of stone and metal was rejected.

9. Search of Advocate's Office Upheld: High Court Reaffirms Scope of Section 132, Protects Attorney–Client Privilege, and Emphasizes Humane Conduct During Search

Maulikkumar Satishbhai Sheth v. Income Tax Officer, Assessment Unit 4(2)(6), Ahmedabad & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Niral R. Mehta
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia)
Case Number: SCA/20187/2023

This petition was filed by a practicing advocate challenging the search and seizure proceedings conducted by the Income Tax Department under Section 132 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, at his residence and professional office between 3 and 6 November 2023. The petitioner alleged that the search was initiated without the requisite "reason to believe" and was intended to secure documents relating to transactions handled by him in his professional capacity. He contended that the authorities seized electronic devices, copied confidential client data, and acted in breach of the attorney–client privilege protected under Section 126 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The petitioner further alleged that he and his family members were subjected to unnecessary restrictions during the search, that he was prevented from attending court proceedings, and that his female associate was compelled to assist the officers in opening the office premises, thereby violating his rights under Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

The High Court examined the legality of the authorization issued under Section 132 of the Income-tax Act and the material placed before the competent authority for recording the statutory "reason to believe." It held that the authorization was supported by relevant material and satisfied the requirements of Section 132, observing that the scope of judicial review in such matters is confined to examining the existence of relevant material and not its adequacy. The Court therefore declined to interfere with the validity of the search. It further observed that communications between an advocate and a client are protected under Section 126 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, but clarified that such privilege is governed by the statutory limitations contained in that provision and is not absolute.

While upholding the legality of the search, the High Court expressed serious concern regarding the manner in which the search operation was conducted. It observed that after the panchnama had been drawn, there was no justification for restricting the movement or communication of the petitioner and his family members merely because the authorities were continuing the process of copying digital data. The Court deprecated such conduct, holding that forensic imaging of electronic devices had no nexus with curtailing their liberty. It also found the treatment of the petitioner's female associate to be inappropriate and directed the concerned authority to tender an apology. Emphasizing that statutory powers of search and seizure must be exercised with fairness, dignity and due regard to constitutional rights, the Court held that investigative powers cannot be exercised in an arbitrary or oppressive manner even where the search itself is legally valid. Accordingly, the writ petition challenging the search authorization was dismissed, while appropriate observations and directions were issued to ensure that future search operations are conducted in accordance with law and with due respect for professional privilege and individual dignity.

10. Challenge to Gift by Muslim Father Fails: High Court Affirms Lifetime Disposition Rights and Rejects Inheritance-Based Suit as Legally Unsustainable

Daud Valibhai Kakal & Ors. v. Kadar Daud Kakal & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen
Case Number: CRA/547/2019

This revision application arose from a suit filed by one son challenging a registered gift deed executed by his father, a Muslim, in favour of three other sons during his lifetime. The suit sought cancellation of the gift and a declaration that the land in question measuring over 8,000 square meters was ancestral in nature, thereby entitling the plaintiff to a share. The petitioners, who were beneficiaries of the gift, filed an application under Order VII Rule 11 CPC seeking rejection of the plaint, arguing that under Mahomedan Law, there is no concept of ancestral property or birthright in inheritance, and that a Muslim father has full legal authority to gift his entire property during his lifetime, even to heirs. They contended that the suit disclosed no cause of action, as the plaintiff had no legal standing to challenge a voluntary inter vivos transfer made by the father while alive. The trial court rejected the application, reasoning that the validity of the gift including delivery of possession and acceptance required evidence and could not be summarily decided. Aggrieved, the petitioners approached the High Court, asserting that the trial court had misapplied both the legal framework and the procedural threshold for rejecting a plaint.

The High Court allowed the revision and quashed the trial court's order, delivering a detailed ruling that reaffirmed the autonomy of Muslims in disposing of property during their lifetime and clarified the procedural discipline required under Order VII Rule 11. The Court held that the suit was legally untenable and barred by settled principles of Mahomedan Law, which do not recognize ancestral property or vest any rights in heirs until the death of the ancestor. Citing authoritative texts such as Mulla's Principles of Mahomedan Law and precedents including Abhishek Viralbhai Ajmera (2022), Imamul Hassan Choudhary (AIR 1982 Patna 89), and Maharaj Shri Manavendrasinhji (1999), the Court emphasized that a Muslim can gift his entire property even to heirs without restriction, and that such gifts are valid so long as the essential elements of declaration, acceptance, and delivery of possession are met. It found that the plaint failed to allege any legal defect in the gift itself and was based solely on speculative inheritance claims, which have no legal standing during the donor's lifetime. The Court also addressed constitutional arguments raised by the respondent, including reliance on Narasu Appa Mali (1952) and Shayara Bano (2017), and clarified that personal law, though uncodified, constitutes enforceable law under Article 13 of the Constitution. Ultimately, the Court concluded that the plaint disclosed no cause of action and was barred by law, and that the trial court had erred in treating the matter as one requiring trial. This judgment reinforces the legal clarity surrounding inter vivos gifts under Mahomedan Law and protects valid lifetime dispositions from being undermined by premature inheritance disputes.

11. Acquittal Reversed: Husband Convicted for Murder Based on Reliable Dying Declaration and Failure to Explain Wife's Homicidal Burns

State of Gujarat v. Manojbhai Madhubhai Surti
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cheekati Manavendranath Roy and Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. M. Vyas
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cheekati Manavendranath Roy)
Case Number: CR.A/1095/2013

This case arose from the acquittal of Manojbhai Surti, who was charged with the murder of his wife, Chandrikaben, by setting her ablaze after a domestic quarrel allegedly triggered by suspicion over her character. The incident occurred inside their home while the accused and their minor daughter were present. The deceased sustained 80–85% burn injuries and succumbed three days later. Before her death, she gave two consistent statements one to the Executive Magistrate and another to the police clearly naming her husband as the assailant. Despite this, the trial court acquitted the accused, citing lack of corroboration and the fact that all material witnesses, including family members, had turned hostile. The State appealed, arguing that the dying declaration was legally sufficient for conviction, even without corroboration, and that the accused failed to explain how his wife sustained fatal injuries while in his company under one roof.

The High Court reversed the acquittal, holding that the dying declaration was voluntary, consistent, and recorded by a competent Magistrate who was satisfied with the declarant's mental fitness. It emphasized that under Section 106 of the Evidence Act, the burden lay on the husband to explain the circumstances of his wife's death, which he failed to do. The Court cited authoritative precedents, including Trimukh Maroti Kirkan and Laxman v. State of Maharashtra, affirming that a trustworthy dying declaration can be the sole basis for conviction. It found the trial court's reasoning legally unsustainable and perverse, particularly in disregarding the dying declaration due to hostile witnesses who were close relatives of the accused. Accordingly, the High Court convicted Manojbhai Surti under Section 302 IPC, reinforcing the principle that failure to explain a custodial death and a credible dying declaration are sufficient grounds for conviction in cases of domestic homicide.

12. Foreign Divorce vs. Hindu Marriage Act: Gujarat High Court Reaffirms Sanctity of Indian Matrimonial Law

Smiti Shah v. Aakash Shah
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.Y. Kogje and Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda
(Per - Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda)
Case Number: FA/2426/2023

What began as a marriage solemnized in Ahmedabad under Hindu rites eventually evolved into a cross-border legal battle that tested the interplay between Indian matrimonial law and foreign divorce decrees. After matrimonial disputes arose, the wife returned to India with their son in September 2015. While both spouses were in India, the husband initiated divorce proceedings before the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, relying on Australian law. The wife consistently objected to the jurisdiction of the Australian Court, maintaining that their marriage was governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and could be dissolved only on the grounds recognised under Indian law. Despite her objections, the Australian Court granted a decree of divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage. The wife thereafter approached the Family Court at Ahmedabad seeking restitution of conjugal rights and a declaration that the foreign decree was null and void. However, the Family Court rejected her plaint at the threshold, holding that the marriage had already stood dissolved by the Australian decree.

Allowing the appeal, the Gujarat High Court undertook a detailed examination of private international law, the doctrine of domicile, Section 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and the scheme of the Hindu Marriage Act. The Court observed that the wife had never submitted to the jurisdiction of the Australian Court and had, from the outset, challenged its competence to adjudicate disputes arising from a Hindu marriage solemnized in India. It further noted that even the Australian Court had acknowledged the uncertainty regarding recognition of such a decree under Indian law. Holding that a Hindu marriage solemnized in India continues to be governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, the Court ruled that merely acquiring foreign citizenship or invoking a foreign forum cannot permit a spouse to bypass the substantive requirements of Indian matrimonial law. It also found that where both parties had returned to India and retained their domicile of origin, the husband could not take advantage of Australian law merely because it offered a more convenient ground for divorce.

The High Court further held that under Section 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure, a foreign judgment is not conclusive if it is rendered by a court lacking competent jurisdiction or if it refuses to recognise Indian law in matters where such law is applicable. Since the wife had specifically pleaded both these grounds, the Family Court ought to have examined the issues on merits instead of rejecting the plaint at the threshold. Accordingly, the order of rejection was set aside and the suit was restored for adjudication. The judgment reaffirms that foreign divorce decrees cannot automatically displace the Hindu Marriage Act and that Indian courts must independently examine whether such decrees satisfy the requirements of Indian law before recognising their legal effect. It reinforces the enduring principle that marriages solemnized under Indian personal law remain subject to the protections and safeguards of that law, notwithstanding subsequent changes in citizenship or residence.

13. Consent Decree Must Be Honoured: High Court Upholds Tenant's Right to Possession of Reconstructed Shops, Rejects Landlord's Technical Objections

Laxminarayan Khadayata Vanik Trust & Ors. v. Rupeshbhai Tribhovanbhai Solanki
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ilesh J. Vora
Case Number: SCA/21178/2017

This petition under Article 227 challenged the order of the Executing Court dated 29.08.2018 in Execution Petition No. 327 of 2014, which issued possession warrants in favour of a tenant seeking restoration of two shops under a compromise decree. The dispute arose when the tenant, in possession since 2000, filed a suit in 2013 fearing eviction during redevelopment of the building owned by the petitioner trust. The parties entered into a written compromise (Exh.9) whereby the tenant surrendered possession of his shops, with the landlords agreeing to hand over newly constructed shops of equal measurement within 18 months, failing which compensation would be payable. The Small Causes Court disposed of the suit on 14.02.2013, recording the compromise and drawing a decree accordingly. However, after reconstruction, the landlords failed to restore possession, prompting the tenant to file execution proceedings. The landlords resisted, arguing that the decree was unexecutable, that the tenant had demanded more area, and that provisions of Section 17 of the Gujarat Rent Act terminated his rights when he did not take possession within one month of intimation.

The High Court rejected these objections, holding that the compromise decree was lawful, binding, and enforceable. It emphasized that the suit was one for injunction and declaration, not eviction under Section 13(1)(hh) of the Rent Act, and therefore Sections 17(B) and 17(C) were not attracted. The Court noted that the landlords had already acted upon the decree by demolishing the old structure and constructing the new building, and could not now resile from their obligations. Technical pleas about measurement and alleged non-compliance were found to be dilatory tactics, as the tenant had consistently expressed readiness to accept possession as per the approved plan. The Court further clarified that under Order 23 Rule 3 CPC, once a compromise is recorded and decree drawn, the executing court cannot go behind the decree. Citing Supreme Court precedent (Ameteshver Anand v. Virendra Mohan, 2006), the Court held that satisfaction of the trial court about the lawfulness of compromise is presumed unless proved otherwise. Accordingly, the High Court upheld the Executing Court's order issuing possession warrants, affirming that landlords cannot defeat a tenant's rights under a consent decree by raising belated technical objections. Thus the court dismissed the petition and imposed exemplary cost of ₹1,00,000 on the landlord-petitioner. This judgment reinforces the principle that compromise decrees carry the same force as adjudicated decrees and must be honoured in execution, ensuring fairness and certainty in landlord–tenant relations.

14. Capacity, Consequences, and Circumstances: High Court's Framework for Juvenile Preliminary Assessment

Child in Conflict with Law (through Guardian) v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Gopi
Case Number: CR.RA/1024/2023

The case concerned a 16–17 year old child in conflict with law in a serious dacoity case involving alleged loot of gold, silver, cash, and threats with firearms. The Juvenile Justice Board, Vadodara, after a preliminary inquiry under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, declared that the child should be tried as an adult in the Children's Court. The appellate court affirmed this view, holding that the juvenile was physically and mentally fit, understood the consequences of crime, and had knowingly participated alongside adult co-accused. Challenging these orders, the child's guardian approached the High Court, arguing that the Board and appellate court had relied excessively on the juvenile's confessional statement, ignored contradictions in the complainant's account (including discovery that most ornaments were imitation jewellery), and failed to apply the statutory criteria of Section 15. Counsel emphasized that the inquiry must assess not guilt but capacity whether the juvenile intentionally committed the offence, understood its consequences, and was mentally and physically fit to act independently. It was argued that the Social Investigation and Background Reports showed the child was influenced by a neighbour, repented his involvement, and was preparing for school examinations, and that international standards and Supreme Court precedent (Barun Chandra Thakur v. Master Bholu, 2022) require expert assistance, presumption of innocence, and supply of all materials to the juvenile before such a determination.

The High Court, while reviewing the matter, underscored that treating a child as an adult in heinous offences is an exceptional step with grave consequences, and therefore preliminary assessment under Section 15 must be conducted with scrupulous adherence to statutory safeguards. The Court noted that the Juvenile Justice Act and Model Rules mandate objective satisfaction (based on natural material), subjective satisfaction (based on expert evaluation by psychologists or probation officers), and judicial satisfaction (based on careful evaluation of all reports and personal interaction with the child). It stressed that confessional statements alone cannot be the basis for declaring a juvenile fit to be tried as an adult, and that the inquiry must consider the child's mental and physical capacity, understanding of consequences, and the circumstances of the offence. Drawing on Supreme Court directions and NCPCR guidelines, the Court highlighted the importance of presumption of innocence, fair opportunity of hearing, and supply of all relevant documents to the juvenile. Thus, the Court held that the orders passed by J.J. Board and Children's Court are not judicious and reinforced afresh preliminary assessment by J.J. Board under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

15. No Shortcut Around Article 311: High Court Quashes Compulsory Retirement of Whistleblower Engineer, Calls Out Absent Departmental Inquiry and Missing Confidential Reports

Jagdishkumar Jashvantlal Mehta v. Gujarat Housing Board & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra M. Sareen
Case Number: SCA/16633/2016

The petitioner, an Assistant Engineer with the Gujarat Housing Board since 1990, was prematurely retired in 2015 after being served a notice questioning why he had made direct representations to the Board's Chairman about alleged irregularities within the department. Despite filing a detailed reply, the Board proceeded to pass an order of compulsory retirement on the very day the Review Committee's report citing "lack of integrity" was received, without initiating any formal departmental inquiry. His subsequent appeal went undecided for over a year until this Court directed the Board to dispose of it, following which the Board simply confirmed the retirement. The petitioner argued the action was a shortcut to sidestep due process under Article 311 of the Constitution, pointing out that his Confidential Reports for recent years were never even filled up, so there could be no adverse entries to justify the decision and that the real trigger was his persistent flagging of irregularities within the Board.

The Board defended the order as a legitimate, non-punitive exercise of its administrative power to retire "dead wood" in the public interest, pointing to precedents where courts had upheld such retirements based on adverse service records. The Court, however, found this case squarely governed by a different line of authority including the Supreme Court's ruling in Umedbhai M. Patel and the Division Bench's own precedent in D.M. Patel which establish that compulsory retirement cannot be used as a shortcut to avoid a departmental inquiry, especially where the officer's confidential record is clean or, as here, simply non-existent for the relevant years. The Court also drew on the Supreme Court's decision in Captain Pramod Kumar Bajaj, which cautioned against retiring an officer just as disciplinary proceedings are getting underway, or in disregard of a strong recent performance record. Finding no adverse entries, no departmental inquiry, and no opportunity of hearing extended to the petitioner who was also shown to be an active whistleblower and union office-bearer the Court held the Board's action arbitrary and a punitive measure dressed up as an administrative one. It partly allowed the petition, quashing both the retirement order and the appellate order confirming it, and directed the Board to extend all consequential benefits within three months.

16. Dismissal of Railway Police Personnel Upheld: High Court Finds No Procedural Lapse in Departmental Inquiry Following Godhra Train Tragedy

Gulabsinh Devusinh Jhala & Ors. v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Ms. Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati
Case Number: SCA/25294/2007

These petitions challenged the dismissal of nine Railway Police personnel both armed and unarmed constables who were removed from service following departmental proceedings initiated in the aftermath of the tragic burning of coach S-6 of the Sabarmati Express at Godhra on 27.02.2002. The petitioners were assigned patrolling duty on the train route between Ahmedabad and Dahod but, citing indefinite delay of the Sabarmati Express, returned via Shanti Express instead. The disciplinary authority held that their absence from the assigned train compromised passenger safety and contributed to the lack of immediate police response during the incident. The inquiry officer, Shri Noel Parmar, concluded that the petitioners had falsified station diary entries and failed to seek permission for the change in train, amounting to negligence and misconduct. The petitioners contended that such train substitutions were routine, that no prior knowledge of the incident existed, and that the inquiry was biased due to Shri Parmar's involvement in the criminal investigation of the Godhra case. They argued that the penalty of removal was disproportionate and unsupported by evidence linking them to the tragedy.

The High Court dismissed the petitions, affirming the findings of the disciplinary, appellate, and revisional authorities. It held that the departmental inquiry was conducted in full compliance with procedural safeguards, including examination of witnesses, cross-examination, and reliance on documentary evidence such as duty forms, station diaries, and handwritten logs. The Court rejected allegations of bias against the inquiry officer, noting that the petitioners had not objected to his appointment during the proceedings and had even expressed confidence in his fairness. It emphasized that the misconduct lay not in causing the tragedy but in abandoning assigned duty without authorization and falsifying official records. Citing precedents including Union of India v. J. Ahmed (1979) and Sher Bahadur v. Union of India (2002), the Court clarified that negligence becomes misconduct when consequences are grave and directly attributable. The Court found that the petitioners' absence from the Sabarmati Express at a critical time constituted serious dereliction of duty, and that the penalty of removal was neither arbitrary nor excessive. Accordingly, the petitions were rejected. This judgment underscores the importance of accountability in uniformed services and affirms the principle that procedural integrity and evidentiary sufficiency are paramount in disciplinary adjudication.

17. Equal Entitlement of Widows: High Court Orders Division of Family Pension Despite Nomination Form

Saiyad Jafarunnisha Husenmiya v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nirzar S. Desai
Case Number: SCA/6748/2022

The petitioner, the first wife of late Saiyad Shalesh Hussainmiya, approached the High Court seeking recognition of her right to family pension after her husband's death. Though her husband had nominated his second wife (respondent No.5) in official records, the petitioner argued that she remained a legally wedded spouse, never divorced, and had lived for decades on maintenance awarded by criminal courts. She contended that under the Gujarat Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2002, the definition of "family" in Rule 88 expressly includes a wife and even a judicially separated wife, provided the marriage took place before retirement. Further, Rule 91(2)(i) specifically provides that where there are multiple widows, family pension must be paid in equal shares. The petitioner therefore sought half of the pension, pointing out that her husband had two wives at the time of his death and that nomination forms cannot override statutory entitlement. The respondents resisted, arguing that pension was being paid strictly as per the nomination form and the deceased's wishes, but the Court emphasized that statutory rules, not administrative nominations, govern entitlement to family pension.

In its reasoning, the Court carefully examined the pension rules and found that they clearly envisage equal distribution among widows, without distinguishing between first or second wife. It held that the nomination form is only an administrative device for disbursement and cannot determine substantive rights. Since both the petitioner and respondent No.5 were legally wedded wives before the husband's retirement, they fell squarely within the definition of "family" under Rule 88, and Rule 91 mandated equal sharing of pension. The Court directed the authorities to commence payment of 50% of the family pension to the petitioner within three months, thereby affirming her entitlement. However, it declined to order recovery of past pension already paid to respondent No.5, noting that such recovery against a private individual cannot be ordered in writ jurisdiction, though the petitioner is free to pursue appropriate proceedings separately. The judgment thus reinforced that statutory pension rules prevail over nomination entries, and that widows are entitled to equal shares in family pension, ensuring fairness and dignity in succession to service benefits.

18. Seven Decades On, a Barkhalidar's Right to Sell Confirmed: Collector's Suo Motu Cancellation of Land Sales Struck Down

Rajnikant Prabhudas Pobaru & Anr. v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nikhil S. Kariel
Case Number: SCA/14831/2019

These connected petitions challenged a Rajkot Collector's 2019 order that, acting in suo motu revision, cancelled a decade-old chain of land mutation entries that had allowed a religious trust's land, originally granted to one Bhagat Bhagwanji Monaji as a "Barkhalidar" (a former feudal tenure abolished under the Saurashtra Barkhali Abolition Act, 1951), to be sold through the Charity Commissioner's permission and eventually developed into 74 residential bungalows, many already sold to third parties. The Collector had reasoned that a Barkhalidar was merely an "occupant" without the right to sell land without prior government permission, and that the purchasers, having failed to verify this restriction, could not claim to be bona fide.

The petitioners countered that nothing in the Barkhali Abolition Act or its Rules classified such land as "restricted tenure," that the occupancy certificate itself imposed no conditions restricting sale, and that the Collector's own power to intervene under the Rules was confined strictly to breaches of a co-tenant's right of pre-emption not a general power to second-guess any sale. The High Court agreed, holding that Rules 82, 82A, and 82B of the Saurashtra Barkhali Abolition Rules empower a Barkhalidar to sell land freely, subject only to giving notice of pre-emption, and that the Collector had no statutory basis to invalidate the sales on the ground he invoked. The Court further found the revision itself was mounted far too late filed 8 to 11 years after the underlying mutation entries, well beyond any "reasonable time" as required by settled Supreme Court precedent for exercising undated suo motu powers, by which point the land had changed hands multiple times and been built upon. The Collector's order was accordingly quashed and set aside in both petitions.

19. Modification of Town Planning Scheme Without Hearing Quashed: High Court Upholds Right to Be Heard Before Substantial Plot Relocation

Achal Anil Bakeri & Ors. v. State of Gujarat & Anr.
Bench: Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Mauna M. Bhatt
Case Number: SCA/9564/2020

This petition challenged the State Government's notification dated 25.09.2019 sanctioning Preliminary Town Planning Scheme No. 81 (Sughad–Bhat), which substantially altered the location of Final Plot Nos. 8, 10, and 11 originally allotted to the petitioners. The petitioners contended that the Draft Scheme, sanctioned in 2011, had allotted them compact, contiguous plots based on their original landholdings, and that the Town Planning Officer's proposal in 2016 maintained this configuration. However, the State Government, while sanctioning the Preliminary Scheme under Section 65 of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act, 1976, relocated the plots to entirely different locations without issuing any notice or affording the petitioners an opportunity of hearing. The petitioners argued that such a substantial modification violated the principles of natural justice and the statutory safeguards under Section 65(1), which require a hearing when modifications affect individual rights. They relied on precedents including Kishanbhai Hargovandas Patel (2010) and Laxmi Gold Orna House Ltd. (2025), where similar modifications were held to require prior notice.

The High Court allowed the petition, holding that the State Government's modification of the petitioners' plot locations without notice constituted a breach of natural justice. The Court distinguished between minor rectifications of measurement errors and substantial changes in plot location, emphasizing that the latter directly affect landowners' rights and require procedural fairness. It rejected the State's argument that the modification was merely to rectify an error by the Town Planning Officer, noting that the statutory notification relied upon could not override the TP Act's mandate for a hearing. The Court also clarified that the finalization of the scheme does not preclude judicial review when the grievance pertains to denial of hearing. Accordingly, Clause 2 of the Schedule to the 25.09.2019 notification was quashed, and the State was directed to issue notice to the petitioners and pass a reasoned order after hearing them. This judgment reinforces the procedural safeguards embedded in urban planning law and affirms that even in schemes designed for public benefit, individual rights cannot be bypassed without due process.

20. "स्त्रियः समस्ताः सकला जगत्सु": High Court Orders Termination of Pregnancy for 11-Year-Old Rape Survivor, Upholding Dignity, Autonomy, and Compassionate Justice

XYZ v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Samir J. Dave
Case Number: SCR.A/11637/2023

This special criminal application was filed by the mother of an 11-year-old girl seeking urgent medical termination of her daughter's 26-week pregnancy, which resulted from rape by her own father. The petitioner prayed for immediate intervention to safeguard the minor's physical and mental health, and for preservation of fetal tissue for DNA analysis in the criminal trial. A medical board constituted at SSG Hospital, Vadodara, confirmed that while the pregnancy was viable, the child was under severe psychological distress and at heightened risk of complications due to her age. The mother expressed that continuation of the pregnancy would be traumatic and socially devastating for the family. The Court, after reviewing the medical report and relying on the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in X v. Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Dept., Govt. of NCT of Delhi (AIR 2022 SC 4917), emphasized that reproductive autonomy and bodily integrity are fundamental rights, and that forcing a minor to carry an unwanted pregnancy is a grave violation of her dignity and well-being.

In a judgment that blended constitutional clarity with cultural resonance, the Court invoked ancient Indian wisdom to affirm the strength and sanctity of womanhood. Quoting from the Durga Saptashati, the Court observed: "स्त्रियः समस्ताः सकला जगत्सु" "All women in this world are manifestations of the Divine Mother." The Court declared that "if a woman so chooses, she can accomplish anything she sets her mind to; this power lies uniquely within her." Recognizing the heinous nature of the crime and the tender age of the victim, the Court ordered the medical termination of pregnancy within one week, with utmost care and sensitivity. It also directed the preservation of fetal tissue for evidentiary purposes and awarded ₹2.5 lakhs in compensation ₹50,000 to be paid immediately and the remaining ₹2 lakhs to be held in a fixed deposit until the victim turns 21. The District Collector was appointed guardian of the deposit, and the Court clarified that this compensation would not preclude further relief under Section 357 CrPC. This judgment stands as a powerful affirmation of the judiciary's role in protecting the bodily autonomy, dignity, and future of survivors of sexual violence especially when the survivor is a child.

21. Delayed Pension Due to Forged Record: High Court Awards Interest and Costs After FSL Confirms Official Misconduct

Natwarlal Bechardas Patel v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant M. Prachchhak
Case Number: SCA/13794/2010

This petition was filed by a retired primary school headmaster seeking release of his pension and retirement benefits, which were withheld for over two years due to the alleged loss of his original service book. The petitioner retired on 31.05.2008 after 35 years of service, but his dues including gratuity, commuted pension, and leave encashment were delayed until late 2010. He alleged that officials at the Taluka Panchayat office had not only misplaced his service book but also forged a document to falsely claim that he had lost it himself. The Court ordered a forensic inquiry, and the FSL report confirmed that the disputed document had been tampered with, vindicating the petitioner's claim. Despite repeated representations, the petitioner was forced to litigate for basic entitlements, and the delay was found to be entirely attributable to official misconduct.

The High Court partly allowed the petition, awarding interest at 6% per annum on the delayed retirement benefits from the date of retirement until actual payment, along with 10,000 in costs. The Court directed that the amount be ₹ recovered from the erring officers responsible for the forgery and delay. It cited multiple Supreme Court precedents including Vijay Mehrotra (2000), S.K. Dua (2008), D.D. Tewari (2014), and Dr. A. Selvaraj (2022), affirming that pension and retirement benefits must be paid promptly and that delay especially due to administrative negligence or fraud warrants compensatory interest. The judgment underscores the principle that retirement dues are not a matter of grace but a statutory right, and that public servants must not be made to suffer indignity or financial hardship due to internal lapses. The Court also granted liberty to the State to initiate disciplinary or criminal proceedings against the responsible officials in light of the FSL findings.

22. No Blanket Consolidation of FIRs: High Court Upholds Separate Trials for Distinct Loan Fraud Allegations Against Cooperative Bank Chairman

Bimal Dashrathbhai Parikh v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep N. Bhatt
Case Number: SCR.A/3179/2024

This petition was filed by Bimal Dashrathbhai Parikh, former Chairman of Colour Merchant Cooperative Bank, seeking judicial directions to consolidate multiple FIRs and charge-sheets arising from alleged loan frauds into a single prosecution. The petitioner contended that all FIRs filed by borrowers who defaulted on loans sanctioned in 2019 were based on identical allegations, involved overlapping witnesses and documentary evidence, and pertained to transactions sanctioned from the bank's main branch in Astodia, Ahmedabad. He argued that facing separate trials before different magistrates would violate his constitutional right to a fair and efficient defense, and that the multiplicity of proceedings amounted to abuse of process. Relying on landmark decisions including T.T. Antony (2001), Amit Shah (2013), Arnab Goswami (2020), and Radheshyam (2020), the petitioner urged the Court to treat the first FIR as the principal case and all subsequent FIRs and charge-sheets as supplementary, thereby merging the proceedings under one jurisdiction.

The High Court declined the request, holding that the FIRs were factually and legally distinct, involving different borrowers, loan accounts, branches, complainants, and evidentiary trails. While the petitioner was a common accused, the Court emphasized that each FIR arose from a separate transaction and required independent adjudication. It cited authoritative decisions including Chirag M. Pathak (2018), P. Shreekumar (2018), and Maheshwariben Solanki (2023), affirming that consolidation is permissible only when offences form part of the same transaction or conspiracy not merely due to administrative overlap or similarity in modus operandi. The Court noted that the investigative autonomy of police and prosecutorial discretion must be preserved, and that judicial interference at this stage would prematurely curtail fact-finding. It further clarified that the mere presence of overlapping witnesses or documentary evidence does not justify clubbing unless the factual matrix is identical and legally inseparable. Accordingly, the Court refused to restrain the trial courts from proceeding independently and dismissed the petition. This judgment reinforces the principle that consolidation of criminal proceedings requires a demonstrable nexus of facts and legal continuity, not just convenience or commonality of accused.

23. Right to Change Name Recognized as Expression of Identity: Revenue Authorities Directed to Reflect Gazette-Notified Name in Land Records

Patel Kanubhai @ Kanaiyalal Chunibhai v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha P. Mayee
Case Number: SCA/16766/2019

This petition challenged the refusal of the Mamlatdar, Dascroi to update the petitioner's name in revenue records, despite the petitioner having legally changed his name from "Patel Kanaiyalal Chunilal" to "Patel Kanubhai Chunilal" through due process, including publication in the Gujarat Government Gazette and updates in his Aadhaar and ration cards. The petitioner, who owns agricultural land in Village Vanch, Taluka Dascroi, had submitted an application to the revenue authorities along with supporting documents requesting the name change in land records. However, the Mamlatdar rejected the request on the ground that certified entries in revenue records could not be altered in the absence of specific rules permitting such change. The petitioner contended that this refusal violated his fundamental right to identity and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

The High Court allowed the petition, holding that the right to change one's name is a protected facet of personal identity and expression, and that State authorities are duty-bound to reflect such changes in official records unless explicitly barred by law. Relying on the Supreme Court's decision in Jigya Yadav v. CBSE (2021), the Court emphasized that identity is both natural and acquired, and that the State must act as an enabler not an obstacle in facilitating lawful changes to personal identity. The Court observed that public documents such as the Gazette notification, Aadhaar card, and ration card carry a legal presumption of correctness and must be respected. It held that the absence of specific rules for name change in revenue records cannot be used to deny a citizen's lawful request, and that such refusal amounts to an unreasonable restriction on fundamental rights. Accordingly, the Mamlatdar was directed to process the petitioner's application in accordance with law and subject to reasonable regulations. This judgment affirms the evolving jurisprudence on identity rights and underscores the State's obligation to harmonize administrative processes with constitutional freedoms.

24. Revenue Cancellation of Land Entry Quashed: High Court Holds Collector's Suo Motu Action and Enemy Property Invocation as Jurisdictionally Unsustainable

Shivraj Sumaraj Gelva v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Niral R. Mehta
Case Number: SCA/4360/2016

These petitions challenged the legality of orders passed by the District Collector, Kutch and the Special Secretary (Appeals), Revenue Department, cancelling land revenue entries and resuming private land in favour of the State on the ground that the original vendor had allegedly migrated to Pakistan. The land in question had been purchased by Swami Satnarayangiri through a registered sale deed in 2002 and was later bequeathed to the petitioner. The Collector initiated suo motu proceedings under Rule 108(6) of the Gujarat Land Revenue Rules in 2005, and after a prolonged delay of nearly six years, cancelled Entry No.83 and ordered resumption of the land. The petitioner contended that the Collector's action was time-barred, lacked jurisdiction, and violated Section 135-C of the Land Revenue Code, which mandates mutation of entries based on registered sale deeds unless set aside by a competent civil court. The petitioner also argued that the invocation of the Enemy Property Act, 1968 was baseless, as no inquiry had been conducted, no custodian appointed, and no certificate issued under Section 5(A) declaring the land as enemy property. The FIR from 1975, relied upon by the State to allege migration, had not been investigated or substantiated.

The High Court allowed the petitions, holding that the Collector's exercise of suo motu powers under Rule 108(6) after a delay of six years was legally impermissible and contrary to the principle of reasonable time laid down in Raghav Natha (1969). It further held that the Collector had no jurisdiction under Rule 108(6) to order resumption of land in favour of the State, as clarified in Rinki Shashikant Gandhi (2012). The Court emphasized that entries based on registered sale deeds cannot be cancelled unless the underlying transaction is invalidated by a competent civil court. It also rejected the State's reliance on the Enemy Property Act, noting that no procedural compliance such as appointment of custodian, inquiry, or issuance of certificate had been undertaken. The Court found the revenue authorities' actions to be legally unsustainable, mechanically invoking the Enemy Property Act without factual or statutory foundation. Accordingly, the impugned orders were quashed. The judgment reaffirms the limits of revenue jurisdiction, the sanctity of registered sale transactions, and the procedural rigor required before invoking special statutes like the Enemy Property Act. It also underscores the importance of timely and lawful exercise of revisional powers by revenue authorities and protects private property rights from arbitrary administrative interference.

25. Agreed List Entries Quashed: High Court Upholds Tribunal's Ruling That Anonymous Complaints Cannot Justify Career-Stalling Surveillance Tags

Union of India v. Jeetesh Nagori
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nisha M. Thakore
(Per- Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nisha M. Thakore)
Case Number: SCA/4146/2023

This writ petition challenged the Central Administrative Tribunal's order quashing the inclusion of IRS officer Jeetesh Nagori's name in the "Agreed List" for the years 2011 and 2015 a confidential surveillance roster maintained by the government for officers suspected of integrity issues. The Tribunal had declared the entries non-est and directed the authorities to expunge them from all records, barring any future reference. Nagori, a 1997 batch officer, had earlier faced adverse APAR remarks and departmental inquiries based on anonymous and pseudonymous complaints, which were later found baseless. Despite a Referral Board clearing his integrity and expunging the APAR remarks in 2014, his name was re-included in the Agreed List in 2015, again without substantiated evidence. The Tribunal found that the prolonged inquiry lasting over five years had yielded no adverse material and that the continued inclusion of his name violated principles of natural justice and transparency. The Union of India argued that the Agreed List was confidential, non-punitive, and not subject to judicial review, citing the 1966 Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines and the Vigilance Manual.

The High Court dismissed the petition, affirming the Tribunal's reasoning and holding that inclusion in the Agreed List, though framed as a surveillance tool, carries serious career consequences and must meet minimum standards of fairness. The Court emphasized that anonymous complaints cannot form the basis for stigmatizing an officer, especially when no inquiry yields actionable findings. It noted that the Agreed List entries had persisted beyond their one-year validity and were used to justify non-sensitive postings and hinder promotional prospects, including eligibility for senior roles in CBIC. The Court rejected the Union's contention that such entries were immune from challenge, clarifying that any administrative action with adverse impact whether communicated or not can be judicially reviewed. It also held that the refusal to expunge the entries, citing confidentiality, was arbitrary and unsupported by law. The judgment reinforces the constitutional mandate of procedural fairness, especially in service matters, and affirms that surveillance mechanisms must not operate in secrecy when they affect livelihood, reputation, and advancement. Accordingly, the Agreed List entries were declared void, and the respondent's name was ordered to be permanently removed from all departmental records.

26. Talati Acquittal Sustained: High Court Finds No Proven Bribe Demand or Anthracene Evidence in ACB Trap

State of Gujarat v. Bhanudad Sundarbhai Patel
Bench: Hon'ble Ms. Justice S.V. Pinto
Case Number: CR.A/2062/2006

This appeal was filed by the State of Gujarat challenging the acquittal of a Talati- cum-Mantri accused of demanding and accepting a bribe of 4,000 in connection ₹ with accounting work under the Jawahar Yojna scheme. The complainant, whose wife was the Sarpanch of Sildha Gram Panchayat, alleged that the accused had demanded illegal gratification for maintaining accounts related to government funds allotted to the village. A trap was laid by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, and the accused was allegedly caught accepting the tainted currency notes at a pre- arranged location. The prosecution relied on oral testimony from the complainant, his wife, and officers involved in the trap, along with documentary evidence including the panchnama and sanction order. However, the trial court acquitted the accused, citing contradictions in witness statements, lack of direct evidence of demand, and absence of anthracene traces on the accused's hands or clothing.

The High Court upheld the acquittal, reiterating that in corruption cases, proof of demand and acceptance is a sine qua non for conviction under Sections 7 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. It relied on the principles laid down in Neeraj Dutta (2022) and Mallappa (2024), emphasizing that mere recovery of tainted money without corroborated demand does not suffice. The Court noted that the panch witness had turned hostile, the complainant's testimony was inconsistent, and no ultraviolet traces were found on the accused. It held that the trial court's view was plausible and based on a thorough appreciation of evidence, and that no perversity or illegality was shown to warrant interference. The judgment reinforces the appellate restraint required in acquittal appeals and the evidentiary rigor demanded in corruption prosecutions, affirming that suspicion cannot substitute proof beyond reasonable doubt.

27. Freedom of Speech vs. Institutional Reputation: Gujarat High Court Declines to Quash Defamation Proceedings Against Arvind Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh Over Prime Minister's Degree Remarks'

Arvind Gobindram Kejriwal & Sanjay Dinesh Singh v. State of Gujarat & Registrar, Gujarat University
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hasmukh D. Suthar
Case Number: SCR.A/12429/2023

The petitions were filed by Arvind Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh seeking to quash criminal defamation proceedings initiated against them under Section 500 IPC on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Registrar of Gujarat University. The complaint alleged that statements made in a press conference, later circulated on Twitter, cast aspersions on the authenticity of the Prime Minister's degree and thereby defamed the University. The Metropolitan Magistrate, after recording preliminary evidence of University employees and considering a pen-drive containing the alleged video, issued summons against the petitioners. Their challenge before the Sessions Court failed, and they approached the High Court under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution read with Section 482 CrPC, contending that the summoning order was mechanical, unsupported by independent evidence, and violative of procedural safeguards under Section 202 CrPC. They argued that Gujarat University is a "State instrumentality" under Article 12, and therefore, under Section 199(2) CrPC, any defamation complaint should have been filed by the Public Prosecutor in the Sessions Court, not by the Registrar before a Magistrate. They further maintained that their remarks merely raised doubts about the Prime Minister's degree, not imputations against the University, and thus did not amount to defamation.

On the other hand, the complainant argued that the Registrar was duly authorized to file the complaint, that the University is an autonomous statutory body and not "State" for the purposes of Section 199(2) CrPC, and that the statements prima facie harmed the reputation of the University, which has a long-standing academic standing. The High Court, after hearing both sides, emphasized that summoning an accused is a serious matter but once the Magistrate has applied his mind and found prima facie material, the issues of admissibility of evidence, applicability of Section 199(2), and whether the statements were defamatory are matters for trial. It held that the petitions were essentially attempts to re-argue what had already been rejected in revision, and declined to interfere at the threshold. The Court dismissed the petitions, thereby allowing the defamation proceedings to continue, underscoring the principle that questions of free speech, institutional reputation, and evidentiary sufficiency must be tested during trial rather than quashed at the initial stage. This judgment is significant because it sits at the intersection of constitutional free speech, political accountability, and the protection of institutional reputation.

28. Victim Compensation Enhanced: High Court Quashes Trial Court's Paltry Award in POCSO Acid Attack Case

Umesh Shankar Prajapati v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.C. Doshi
Case Number: SCR.A/3428/2023

This petition was filed by the father of a minor girl who was brutally attacked with acid and sexually assaulted by a neighbour in December 2020. The victim, then a child, suffered grievous internal injuries requiring multiple surgeries and prolonged hospitalization. Despite the severity of the crime and the trauma endured, the Special POCSO Court awarded only 1,00,000 as interim ₹ compensation under Rule 9(2) of the POCSO Rules, 2020, without invoking the Gujarat Victim Compensation Scheme, 2019. The petitioner challenged this order, arguing that the trial court had failed to appreciate the full extent of the victim's suffering and had misapplied the law by treating the matter as adversarial rather than victim-centric. The Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and the State supported the petitioner's plea, acknowledging the trial court's error in both legal interpretation and compassionate application.

The High Court allowed the petition, holding that the trial court's approach was "as hard as nail" and contrary to the spirit of the 2019 Scheme. It emphasized that victim compensation is not charity but a statutory right, rooted in the State's obligation to rehabilitate victims of violent crime. The Court noted that the victim, being a minor and a survivor of both acid attack and sexual assault, was entitled to enhanced compensation under Clause 9(5) of the Scheme 50% above the scheduled amount. Accordingly, it modified the impugned order and directed the District Legal Services Authority, Anand, in consultation with the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, to disburse ₹4,50,000 as interim compensation, deducting any previously paid amount. The Court also clarified that benefits received under the Mukhyamantri Amrutam Yojana could not be offset against compensation. This judgment reaffirms the judiciary's duty to uphold restorative justice and ensures that victim-centric schemes are interpreted with empathy, not technicality.

29. Directors Discharged from Culpable Homicide Charge: High Court Finds No Prima Facie Knowledge or Intent in Spurious Liquor Tragedy

Pankajbhai Kantilal Patel & Ors. v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. R. Mengdey
Case Number: CR.RA/806/2024

These criminal revision applications arose from the rejection of discharge pleas filed by Directors of Amos Corporation, who were charge-sheeted under Section 304 IPC following a mass casualty incident involving spurious liquor in Gujarat. The prosecution alleged that methyl alcohol stored at the company's godown was stolen by a labour contractor, Jayesh Khavadiya, and used to manufacture illicit liquor, resulting in multiple deaths. The applicants, senior citizens and non-executive directors, contended that they had no role in day-to-day operations, had issued a valid naukarnama to Khavadiya under the Gujarat Prohibition Act, and were unaware of any misuse. They argued that the charge-sheet lacked any overt act or material linking them to the alleged offence, and that their only possible lapse was a failure to prevent pilferage, which did not amount to culpable homicide. The prosecution opposed the discharge, asserting that the directors had knowledge of the hazardous nature of methyl alcohol and failed to implement safeguards such as CCTV surveillance, thereby enabling the theft.

The High Court allowed the revision applications, holding that the material on record did not disclose the requisite knowledge or intention to attract liability under Section 304 IPC. The Court emphasized that culpable homicide requires either intent or knowledge that an act is likely to cause death. It found that the directors could not have reasonably foreseen that a third party would steal methyl alcohol, use it to manufacture spurious liquor, and that such liquor would be consumed and cause fatalities. The Court noted that the co-accused had confessed to acting independently for financial gain, and there was no evidence of conspiracy or prior misconduct. It also held that mere supervisory roles or corporate positions do not create vicarious criminal liability absent specific acts or omissions. Relying on precedents including Keshub Mahindra (1996), Nitinchandra Raval (2019), and Sanjay Dutt v. State of Haryana (2023), the Court concluded that the applicants' prosecution under Section 304 IPC was legally unsustainable. Accordingly, the impugned orders were quashed and the applicants were discharged. This judgment reinforces the principle that criminal liability, especially for grave offences like culpable homicide, must rest on clear evidence of intent or knowledge, and cannot be imputed solely on the basis of corporate designation.

30. NDPS Quash Petition Dismissed: High Court Finds Commercial Quantity of Opium, Rejects Ayurvedic Medicine Defence

Mayank Girishbhai Shah v. Narcotics Control Bureau & Anr.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Divyesh A. Joshi
Case Number: SCR.A/3087/2025

This petition sought quashing of Special NDPS Case No. 10 of 2022, arising from the seizure of 6.294 kg of opium-laced digestive supplements and an additional 1.790 kg of similar contraband from the applicant's warehouse. The petitioner, an import-export businessman dealing in Ayurvedic products, argued that the seized substance was not "opium" under the NDPS Act but an "opium derivative" specifically morphine used in over-the-counter formulations like Kamini Vidravan Ras. He contended that the prosecution was legally flawed, relying solely on his confessional statement under Section 67 (inadmissible under Section 25 of the Evidence Act), and that the seized product lacked proper labelling but did not constitute narcotic trafficking. He further argued that the Drugs and Cosmetics Act should apply instead, and that the mandatory procedures under Section 52A of the NDPS Act particularly sampling in the presence of a Magistrate were not followed. The defence also claimed that the product was medicinal in nature and fell within the exception carved out under Section 8(c) of the NDPS Act.

The High Court rejected the petition, holding that the seized substance tested positive for opium with morphine content exceeding 2.2–2.4%, well above the statutory threshold of 0.2% under Section 2(xv) of the NDPS Act. The Court emphasized that the total weight of the mixture, not just the active alkaloid, determines commercial quantity, citing authoritative precedents including Hira Singh (2020) and Rajkumar Arora (2025). It dismissed the Ayurvedic medicine defence, noting the absence of AYUSH or FSSAI certification and the misleading labelling of jars as "Hajma Goli" and "Urban Desi." The Court clarified that the NDPS Act overrides the Drugs and Cosmetics Act under Section 80, and that trafficking of narcotics even in medicinal form without proper authorization attracts penal provisions. Finding coordinated financial trails, digital evidence, and conscious possession, the Court held that the prosecution was legally sound and the trial must proceed. This judgment reinforces the NDPS Act's deterrent framework and affirms that technical defences cannot shield commercial trafficking of narcotics, especially when the seized quantity exceeds the commercial threshold and the accused fails to establish lawful medicinal use.

31. Court Commissioner Not a Tool to Collect Evidence: High Court Upholds Rejection of Application under Order 26 Rule 9 CPC

Jyotsanaben R. Patel v. State of Gujarat & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devan M. Desai
Case Number: SCA/9011/2023

The petitioner, original plaintiff in Special Civil Suit No. 1 of 2020 before the Principal Senior Civil Judge, Vyara, sought appointment of a Court Commissioner under Order 26 Rule 9 CPC to ascertain the correct number and identity of the disputed property. The suit itself claimed possession, adverse possession, and permanent injunction over land alleged to be encroached. The trial court rejected the application (Exh.7) on 27.03.2023, despite the defendants endorsing "no objection." Aggrieved, the petitioner invoked Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution, arguing that the commissioner's report would strengthen her injunction plea and clarify property details. She also relied on Order 39 Rule 7 CPC, which allows inspection of suit property, contending that the trial court erred in refusing the request.

The High Court dismissed the petition, affirming the trial court's reasoning. It held that the discretion to appoint a commissioner lies with the court, regardless of the defendants' consent. The purpose of a commission under Order 26 Rule 9 is limited to elucidate matters in dispute, ascertain market value, mesne profits, or damages not to collect or create evidence of possession. The Court found that the petitioner's application was an attempt to manufacture proof of possession, which is impermissible. It further clarified that Order 39 Rule 7 CPC, dealing with detention or inspection of property, is distinct and unrelated to Order 26 Rule 9. Since the suit involved serious disputes about the legality of possession over government gauchar land, appointing a commissioner would serve no legal purpose. The Court concluded that the trial court rightly rejected the application, as courts cannot be instruments for gathering evidence for parties. Accordingly, the petition was dismissed, and connected civil applications were disposed of.

32. Penalty for Delayed PF Compliance Partly Set Aside: High Court Finds Mechanical Levy of Damages Without Mens Rea Assessment Unjustified

Rajkot Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd. v. Regional Provident Fund Commissioner
Bench: Hon'ble Mrs. Justice M.K. Thakker
Case Number: SCA/4426/2009

This petition challenged the orders passed by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and the Employees' Provident Funds Appellate Tribunal imposing damages of ₹37.20 lakhs under Section 14B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 upon Rajkot Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd. The petitioner-bank contended that since 1973 it had maintained its own provident fund scheme under Section 72 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act with the approval of the Registrar and had consistently deposited employees' provident fund contributions with the Apex Co-operative Bank. Following the issuance of a coverage notice under the EPF Act, the bank deposited the provident fund dues and also paid the statutory interest determined under Section 7Q. It was argued that although the authorities retrospectively applied the provisions of the EPF Act, they mechanically imposed damages without considering the EPFO's own circular governing establishments that had maintained independent provident fund schemes before coverage.

Allowing the petition, the High Court held that the authorities had failed to appreciate the effect of the EPFO Circular dated 15 November 2004, which specifically classifies establishments maintaining their own provident fund system prior to coverage under the Act. The Court observed that the petitioner-bank squarely fell within Category 4 of the circular, under which damages under Section 14B cannot be levied for the period preceding the payment date stipulated in the coverage notice. Since the authorities ignored these binding administrative instructions while imposing damages, the impugned orders could not be sustained. The Court further noted that even the respondent authorities, upon instructions, accepted the manner in which damages were required to be recalculated in accordance with the circular. Accordingly, the High Court quashed the orders passed by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and the Appellate Tribunal and directed that the amount already deposited by the petitioner be adjusted against future dues or refunded, as the case may be. The judgment underscores that while statutory authorities possess the power to levy damages under Section 14B, such power must be exercised in conformity with applicable statutory provisions as well as binding administrative circulars, ensuring fairness, consistency, and legality in the exercise of penal jurisdiction.

33. 'Customs Officers' Conviction Upheld: High Court Finds Deliberate Participation in Export Fraud Conspiracy

Roop Narayan Meena & Anr. v. Central Bureau of Investigation & Anr.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vimal K. Vyas
Case Number: CR.A/911/2024

These criminal appeals challenged the conviction of two Customs officials a Superintendent and an Inspector for offences under Sections 420 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code arising out of a fraudulent export transaction. The prosecution alleged that the appellants, while serving in the Customs and Central Excise Department, falsely certified the examination and factory stuffing of a container declared to contain brass electrical parts for export to Dubai. Acting on specific intelligence, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted the container and found that it was actually filled with 724 cartons of cement bricks. According to the prosecution, the false certification enabled the exporter to wrongfully obtain export-related duty benefits amounting to approximately ₹23.30 lakhs. The appellants contended that they had acted in good faith, relied upon departmental procedures and circulars, had no criminal intent or personal gain, and that at the highest the case disclosed only negligence rather than criminal conspiracy.

The High Court dismissed both appeals and affirmed the conviction. It held that the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the appellants had actively participated in the conspiracy by intentionally endorsing false examination reports and facilitating export without carrying out the mandatory physical verification. The Court relied upon the documentary evidence, witness testimonies, call detail records, official records and surrounding circumstances to conclude that the chain of evidence established the appellants' meeting of minds with the exporter, dishonest intention and active participation by deliberate omissions and acts. While observing that statements recorded under Section 108 of the Customs Act cannot by themselves form the sole basis of conviction, the Court held that such statements were adequately corroborated by independent evidence in the present case. Rejecting the contention that the case disclosed mere departmental negligence, the Court held that the evidence established criminal conspiracy and cheating, and found no perversity or illegality in the trial court's appreciation of evidence. Accordingly, the conviction and sentence under Sections 420 read with 120B IPC were affirmed and both appeals were dismissed.

34. Unilateral Arbitrator Appointment Held Void: High Court Upholds Executing Court's Power to Decline Enforcement of Award Lacking Jurisdiction

Integro Finserv Private Limited v. Dhirubhai Govabhai Sagthiya & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Chief Justice Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal and
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pranav Trivedi
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pranav Trivedi)
Case Number: SCA/14038/2024

This writ petition arose from the dismissal of an execution application filed under Section 36 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 by Integro Finserv Private Limited, seeking enforcement of an arbitral award passed in favor of its predecessor-in-interest. The dispute originated from a loan-cum-hypothecation agreement executed in 2013 between L&T Finance and the respondent borrower, who defaulted on repayment. After repossession and sale of the asset, the outstanding dues were assigned first to CFM ARC and later to the petitioner. CFM ARC had unilaterally appointed an arbitrator under Clause 12.1 of the agreement, and the arbitrator passed an ex parte award in December 2020 directing the respondent to pay 3.96 lakhs with 18% interest. The petitioner, ₹ having acquired rights under a subsequent assignment deed, filed for execution of the award. The executing court dismissed the application, holding that the award was unenforceable due to the arbitrator's unilateral appointment and lack of jurisdiction. The petitioner challenged this dismissal, arguing that the executing court had exceeded its jurisdiction under Section 36 by effectively setting aside the award without a formal challenge under Section 34.

The High Court upheld the executing court's decision, affirming that an arbitral award passed by a unilaterally appointed arbitrator is void ab initio and cannot be enforced. Drawing on precedents including HRD Corporation v. GAIL (2018), TRF Ltd. v. Energo Engineering (2017), and Bharat Broadband v. United Telecoms (2019), the Court reiterated that an arbitrator who is ineligible under Section 12(5) read with the Seventh Schedule of the Act cannot be appointed unilaterally, and any award passed by such an arbitrator suffers from inherent lack of jurisdiction. The Court clarified that even in execution proceedings under Section 36, the executing court retains the power to refuse enforcement of an award that is null and void, akin to a decree passed by a court lacking jurisdiction. It rejected the petitioner's contention that the award's validity could only be challenged under Section 34, holding that enforcement of a void award would amount to grave procedural injustice. The judgment also emphasized that arbitration is a consensual dispute resolution mechanism, and unilateral appointments without written waiver violate the foundational principles of fairness and neutrality. Accordingly, the petition was dismissed. This ruling reinforces the judiciary's commitment to procedural integrity in arbitration and affirms the executing court's role in safeguarding against enforcement of awards rendered without lawful authority.

35. Custody Cannot Be Reopened Through Guardianship Route: High Court Upholds Divorce Decree as Binding on Parental Rights

Mausami Dilipkumar Bhatt v. Maunang Lalitkumar Gor
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev J. Thaker
Case Number: CRA/170/2024

This revision arose from a custody dispute following a mutual consent divorce. The petitioner wife challenged the Family Court's refusal to reject her ex- husband's guardianship petition filed under Section 25 of the Guardians and Wards Act, seeking custody of their minor daughter Krishvi. The parties had earlier divorced under Section 13(b) of the Hindu Marriage Act, with a clear agreement recorded in the decree that custody would remain with the mother. The wife argued that the father's subsequent petition was legally barred, as he had voluntarily relinquished custody and visitation rights during the divorce proceedings. She contended that unless the custody order was modified under Section 26 of the Hindu Marriage Act, no parallel proceedings under the Guardians and Wards Act could be entertained. The Family Court had rejected her plea under Order VII Rule 11 CPC, prompting this revision.

The High Court allowed the revision and quashed the guardianship petition, holding that custody orders passed in matrimonial proceedings are binding and cannot be circumvented through alternate statutory routes. It emphasized that Section 25 of the Guardians and Wards Act is not a substitute for Section 26 of the Hindu Marriage Act, especially when custody has already been judicially settled. The Court noted that the father had not alleged any change in circumstances or harm to the child, nor had he invoked Section 26 to seek modification of the decree. It reaffirmed that custody orders are inherently flexible and subject to review, but only through the proper channel and with evidence of changed conditions. The judgment also laid down a detailed framework for when custody modifications may be sought, including grounds such as neglect, remarriage, relocation, or the child's own wishes. Ultimately, the Court concluded that the father's petition was procedurally flawed and legally untenable, and that the child's welfare already secured under the existing decree must not be destabilized. This ruling reinforces the integrity of custody agreements in divorce proceedings and protects children from being drawn into post-divorce litigation unless their well-being genuinely demands it.

36. "Ten Years Have Got Behind You": High Court Quashes Customs Show Cause Notices for Inordinate Delay, Citing Judicial Discipline and Fairness

Rohan Dyes and Intermediates Ltd. & Anr. v. Union of India & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav D. Karia and Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.N. Ray
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.N. Ray)
Case Number: SCA/10826/2020

This writ petition was filed by a chemical export company seeking quashing of two show cause notices issued by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in 2010 and 2011, alleging mis-declaration of exported goods under the DEPB scheme. The petitioners had exported synthetic dyes and were accused of misclassifying "Acid Black 234" as "Acid Black 210" to wrongfully claim export incentives. However, the Joint Director General of Foreign Trade had already adjudicated the same issue in 2013, accepting the petitioner's explanation that the two dyes were chemically indistinguishable and imposing only a token penalty. Despite this, the Customs Department failed to adjudicate its own show cause notices for over a decade, even after granting personal hearings in 2012. The petitioners argued that the delay was unjustified, arbitrary, and prejudicial, especially since they had already deposited 75 lakhs as pre-deposit and had ₹ received no communication or resolution for over 13–15 years. The petitioners also sought refund of the deposit with interest and invoked the principle of finality in administrative adjudication.

The High Court allowed the petition, delivering a judgment that opened with a lyrical invocation from Pink Floyd's "Time": "And then one day you find, Ten years have got behind you, No-one told you when to run, You missed the starting gun…" a poetic framing of the State's inaction. The Court held that the Customs Department's failure to adjudicate the show cause notices for over a decade, despite the same issue having been resolved by the Foreign Trade Authority in 2013, violated principles of natural justice, administrative fairness, and legal certainty. Relying on its own precedent in Dhultawala Exim Pvt. Ltd. (2025) and decisions from the Bombay, Delhi, and Orissa High Courts, the Court emphasized that revival of proceedings after such inordinate delay, without explanation, is not merely improper but unlawful. It reaffirmed that show cause notices cannot remain pending indefinitely, especially when they cast a shadow over the petitioner's business and financial standing. Accordingly, the Court quashed both show cause notices and directed that they could no longer be adjudicated. This judgment stands out not only for its legal clarity but also for its literary resonance reminding the State that delay, when unexplained, is not just administrative failure, but a denial of justice.

37. Wife Appointed Guardian for Comatose Husband: High Court Exercises Parens Patriae Jurisdiction to Protect Rights of Incapacitated Patient

Shobhnaben W/o Harjivan Manjibhai Hadiya v. State of Gujarat & Anr.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Maulik J. Shelat
Case Number: SCA/16947/2023

This petition was filed by Shobhnaben Hadiya seeking to be declared the legal guardian of her husband, Dr. Harjivan Manjibhai Hadiya, who has been in a persistent vegetative state since suffering a cerebrovascular stroke in August 2022. The petitioner, a homemaker with two minor children, submitted that her husband formerly a practicing physician was the sole breadwinner and is now completely incapacitated, unable to communicate or care for himself. She sought judicial permission to manage his bank accounts and sell immovable property to cover medical expenses and sustain the family. In support, she submitted medical certificates and a detailed report from a government-appointed team of doctors, confirming that the patient was "completely physically invalid" and unlikely to recover. The petitioner also highlighted the absence of any statutory framework in India for appointing a guardian for a person in a comatose state, citing precedents from Gujarat, Kerala, and Allahabad High Courts where constitutional courts had invoked their parents patriae jurisdiction to fill this legislative gap.

The High Court partly allowed the petition, appointing the petitioner as guardian of her husband and authorizing her to manage his financial affairs, including the sale of property listed in the petition. The Court relied on its inherent powers under Article 226 of the Constitution, noting that in the absence of statutory remedies, constitutional courts must act to protect the rights of incapacitated individuals. It cited the doctrine of parens patriae as recognized in Indian and international jurisprudence, emphasizing that courts have a duty to safeguard those who cannot protect themselves. The judgment referenced the Gujarat High Court's earlier ruling in Dipaben Bhatt (2022), as well as landmark decisions from Kerala and Allahabad, which affirmed that judicial intervention is warranted when no legislative mechanism exists for guardianship in cases of coma or vegetative state. The Court clarified that its order was limited to the specific facts of the case and did not encroach upon legislative functions, but rather responded to an urgent humanitarian need. This judgment reinforces the judiciary's role as a compassionate protector of vulnerable citizens and sets a precedent for future cases involving incapacitated individuals lacking statutory guardianship provisions.

38. Dying Declaration and Hostile Witnesses: Acquittal Sustained

State of Gujarat v. Rajendrasinh Prahaladji Parmar & Ors.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ilesh J. Vora and Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. T. Vachhani
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. T. Vachhani)
Case Number: CR.A/782/2003

Here, eight accused were charged with murder after a violent incident in a village. The prosecution alleged that the deceased, Pruthvisinh, was dragged to the village square, tied to a neem tree, and brutally assaulted with fists, kicks, and even an iron weight. It was further claimed that while being taken to hospital, he was attacked again, his head dashed against the ground, and thrown into a rivulet. The case was built on a complaint treated as a dying declaration, supported by testimonies of family members and villagers.

However, the evidentiary foundation quickly weakened. Most eyewitnesses turned hostile, refusing to support the prosecution's version. The alleged dying declaration itself was riddled with doubts: mismatched signatures, inconsistencies in medical records, and suspicions that the statement was tutored rather than voluntary. Forensic lapses compounded the uncertainty — clothes recovered did not match those sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory, stains appeared inconsistent, and muddamal recovery raised suspicion of tampering. Medical testimony confirmed death due to head injury, but descriptions of injuries varied, leaving ambiguity about the exact manner of assault.

The High Court, revisiting the record, stressed that a dying declaration must be voluntary, consistent, and corroborated. In this case, the declaration lacked reliability, and the collapse of witness support left the prosecution without a credible chain of evidence. The Court also addressed a compromise pursis filed between parties, but rightly held that murder is a non-compoundable offence — settlement cannot substitute proof. Finally, invoking Supreme Court precedents, the Bench emphasized the double presumption of innocence: once acquitted, an accused enjoys reinforced presumption unless overwhelming evidence dictates otherwise.

The outcome was decisive: the acquittal was upheld. The Court found that the prosecution had failed to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt, and no direct, credible evidence linked the accused to the fatal assault.

39. Insurance Liability Restored: High Court Holds Owner of Goods Travelling in Goods Vehicle is Covered

Malabhai Lalabhai Parmar (Deceased) through Legal Heirs & Ors. v. Dahyabhai Baldevbhai Patel & Anr.
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. L. Odedra
Case Number: FA/386/2011

This appeal challenged the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal's decision exonerating the Insurance Company from liability while awarding compensation to the claimant. The claimant had sustained serious injuries when the loading auto-rickshaw in which he was travelling overturned after the driver swerved to avoid an animal crossing the road. The claimant consistently maintained that he was travelling with Bajri (grains) to sell at Kadi market and, therefore, was travelling as the owner of goods rather than as a gratuitous passenger. The Tribunal, however, held that since the panchnamas and injury certificate did not mention the Bajri and no additional premium had been paid, the claimant was not covered under the insurance policy.

Allowing the appeal, the High Court held that the Tribunal had erred in treating the claimant as a gratuitous passenger. The Court observed that the claimant's case that he was travelling with Bajri remained consistent throughout the proceedings, was reflected in the FIR and his testimony, and significantly, was never challenged by the Insurance Company during cross-examination. It further held that the absence of any reference to the goods in the panchnamas or medical records was not decisive, as those documents served different purposes and could not outweigh the uncontroverted evidence on record. The Court also noted that the Insurance Company had failed to discharge its burden of proving that the claimant was a gratuitous passenger, having led no independent evidence or examined the owner-cum-driver.

The Court further clarified that, following the 1994 amendment to Section 147 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the owner of goods or his authorised representative travelling in a goods vehicle is statutorily covered by the insurance policy. It held that the Tribunal had wrongly relied upon New India Assurance Co. Ltd. v. Asha Rani, which dealt with the legal position prior to the 1994 amendment, and instead followed the principle laid down in Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Shardaben Widow of Hasmukhbhai Vinubhai Parmar. Accordingly, the High Court set aside the exoneration of the Insurance Company, held it liable to satisfy the award, and directed it to deposit the compensation with interest at 7.5% per annum from the date of the claim petition until realisation.

40. Failure to Establish Circumstantial Chain Beyond Reasonable Doubt Conviction Set Aside in Alleged Matrimonial Murder

Sujata @ Babita Suresh Ganpatrao Abhang v. State of Gujarat
Bench: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ilesh J. Vora and Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. M. Raval
(Per- Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. M. Raval)
Case Number: CR.A/813/2014

This case arose from the conviction of Sujata @ Babita and her alleged paramour Yogesh Gite for the murder of Sujata's husband, Suresh Abhang, in 2010. The prosecution claimed that Sujata conspired with Yogesh and an absconding third party to eliminate her husband, citing a romantic relationship, financial transactions, and circumstantial behaviour such as keeping the kitchen door open and washing blood-stained clothes. The trial court convicted both under Sections 302, 201, and 34 of the IPC, sentencing them to life imprisonment. On appeal, the defense argued that the case rested entirely on circumstantial evidence, with no direct proof linking the accused to the crime. Key prosecution witnesses, including the daughters of the deceased, gave statements that were either hearsay or allegedly made while the accused were in police custody thus inadmissible under Section 26 of the Indian Evidence Act. Several panch witnesses turned hostile, and critical discovery panchnamas failed to meet the evidentiary standards under Section 27. The defense also highlighted the absence of a certified call detail record and inconsistencies in witness testimonies.

The High Court found that the prosecution failed to establish a complete and unbroken chain of circumstances pointing conclusively to the guilt of the accused. It noted that the alleged confessions were made while in custody and thus inadmissible, and that the recovery of the murder weapon and other material evidence lacked legal credibility due to procedural lapses. The Court emphasized that suspicion, however strong, cannot replace proof beyond reasonable doubt, especially in a case hinging entirely on circumstantial evidence. It also reiterated that the burden under Section 106 of the Evidence Act cannot be shifted to the accused when the prosecution has not discharged its primary burden. Ultimately, the Court held that the trial court had erred in relying on unproven and inadmissible evidence, and it acquitted both appellants. This judgment reinforces the principle that procedural rigour and evidentiary integrity are indispensable in securing a conviction, particularly in cases involving serious charges like murder.

41. Acquittal Upheld: Failure to Prove Common Intention or Active Participation in Murder During Card Game Altercation

State of Gujarat v. Mohmedhusain @ Zuri Mohmedumarpathan
Bench: Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nisha M. Thakore and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Utkarsh Thakorbha Desai (Per - Hon'ble Mr. Justice Utkarsh Thakorbha Desai)
Case Number: CR.A/923/1999

This appeal arose from the acquittal of Mohmedhusain @ Zuri Mohmed umar pathan, who was charged under Section 302 read with Section 34 of the IPC for allegedly instigating a fatal assault committed by co-accused Mehndi Hassan during a card game dispute. The FIR, lodged by the deceased's brother, claimed that Mehndi Hassan invited the deceased to his house to play cards, where a quarrel ensued, leading to Mehndi Hassan stabbing the deceased with a dagger. The prosecution alleged that the respondent-accused provoked Mehndi Hassan by uttering "Aaj hisab pura kardenge," thereby sharing common intention in the murder. However, the trial court acquitted the respondent, noting inconsistencies in witness testimonies and the absence of direct evidence linking him to the crime. The State appealed, arguing that the trial court failed to appreciate the corroborative value of eyewitness accounts, medical evidence, and the discovery panchnama allegedly linking the respondent to the weapon used.

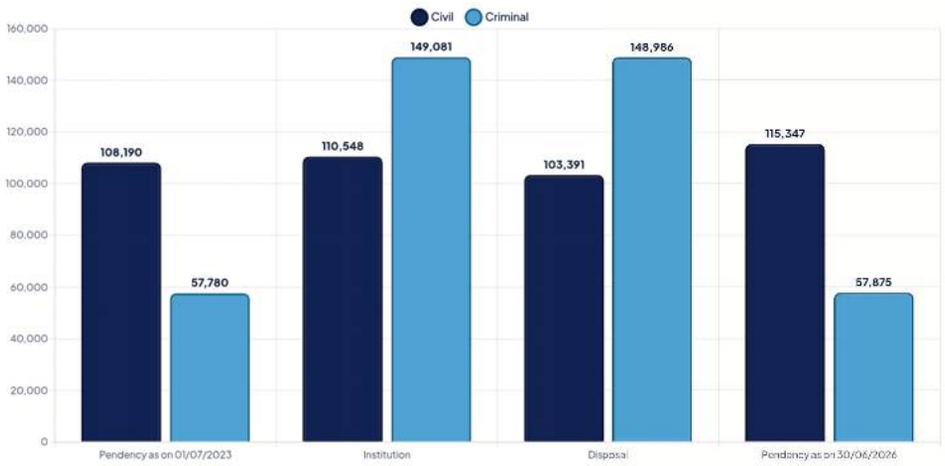
The High Court upheld the acquittal, finding that the prosecution failed to establish the respondent's presence at the scene during the critical moments of the crime or prove any prior animosity or shared intent with the absconding accused. The Court noted that the alleged instigating statement lacked contextual support and was not corroborated by any witness with clarity or consistency. It further held that the discovery of the weapon at the respondent's behest was legally unsustainable, as no evidence showed that the dagger was handed to him or recovered in a manner compliant with Section 27 of the Evidence Act. The medical evidence also revealed discrepancies, with more injuries found on the deceased than accounted for by the prosecution. Applying settled principles from precedent in Chandrappa v. State of Karnataka, the Court emphasized that in appeals against acquittal, interference is warranted only when the trial court's view is implausible or perverse. Since the trial court's reasoning was based on a possible and reasonable interpretation of the evidence, the High Court declined to overturn the verdict, reaffirming the double presumption of innocence and the prosecution's burden to prove common intention beyond reasonable doubt.

Performance Analysis: A Statistical Perspective

High Court of Gujarat

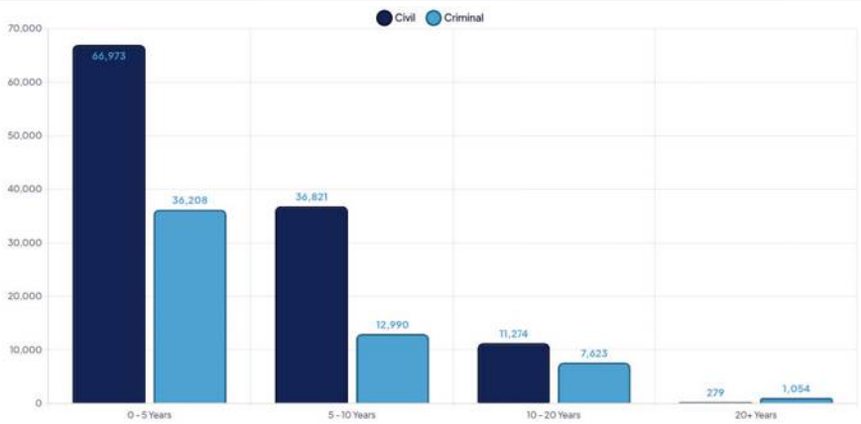
Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Civil and Criminal Cases for the period from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2026:

Side	01/07/2023	Institution	Disposal	30/06/2026
Civil	1,08,190	1,10,548	1,03,391	1,15,347
Criminal	57,780	1,49,081	1,48,986	57,875
Total	1,65,970	2,59,629	2,52,377	1,73,222



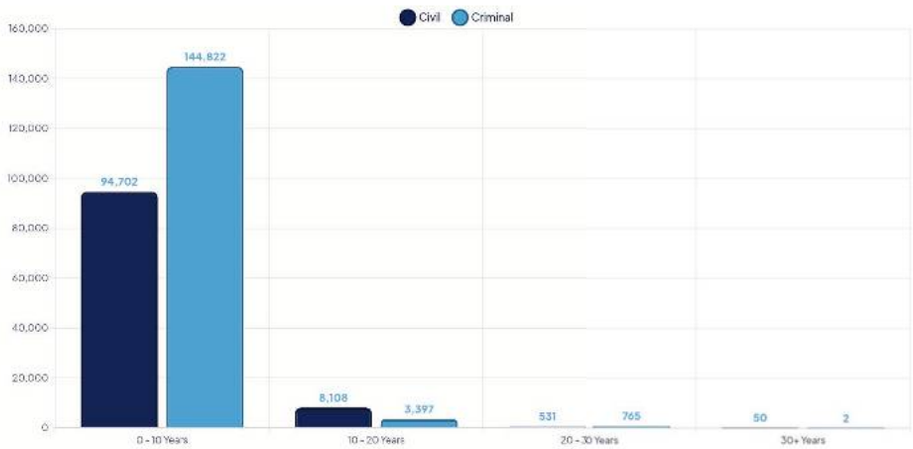
Age-wise Pendency of Cases in High Court as on 30/06/2026:

Side	0 - 5 Years	5 - 10 Years	10 - 20 Years	20+ Years
Civil	66,973	36,821	11,274	279
Criminal	36,208	12,990	7,623	1,054
Total	1,03,181	49,811	18,897	1,333



Age-wise Disposal of cases during the period from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2026:

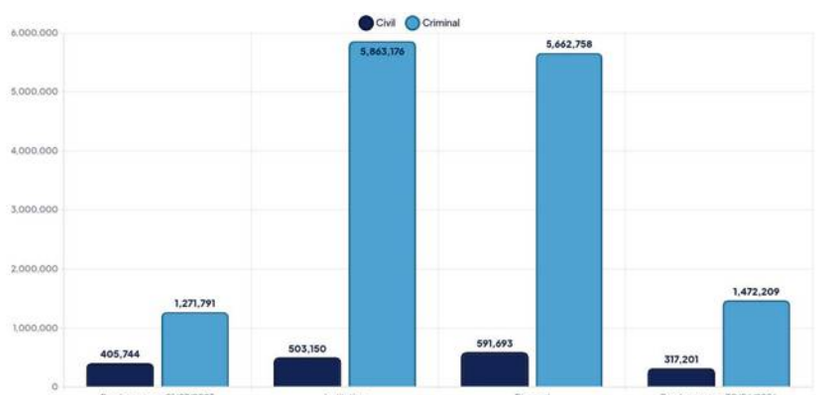
Side	0 - 10 Years	10 - 20 Years	20 - 30 Years	30+ Years
Civil	94,702	8,108	531	50
Criminal	1,44,822	3,397	765	2
Total	2,39,524	11,505	1,296	52



District Judiciary of the State

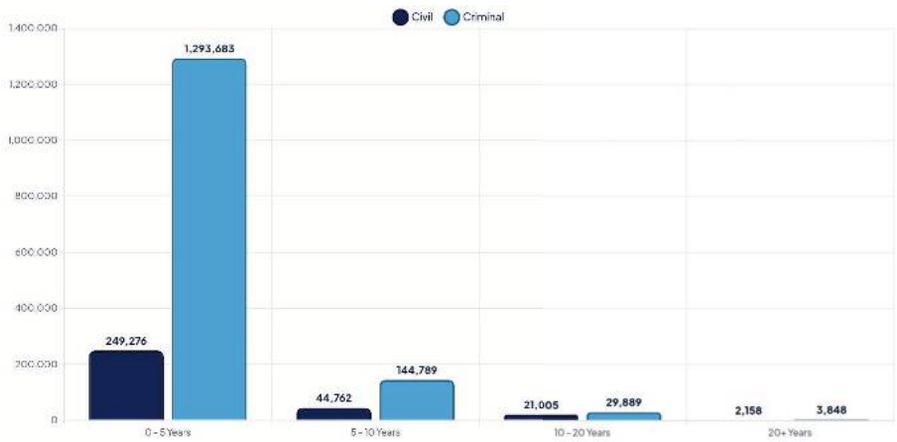
Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Civil and Criminal Cases for the period from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2026:

Side	01/07/2023	Institution	Disposal	30/06/2026
Civil	4,05,744	5,03,150	5,91,693	3,17,201
Criminal	12,71,791	58,63,176	56,62,758	14,72,209
Total	16,77,535	63,66,326	62,54,451	17,89,410



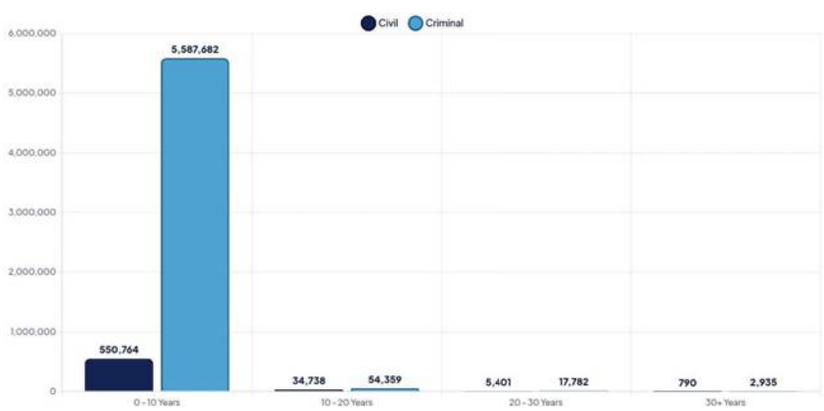
Age-wise Pendency of Cases in the District Judiciary as on 30/06/2026:

Side	0 – 5 Years	10 – 20 Years	10 – 20 Years	20+ Years
Civil	2,49,276	44,762	21,005	2,158
Criminal	12,93,683	1,44,789	29,889	3,848
Total	15,42,959	1,89,551	50,894	6,006



Age-wise Disposal of cases during the period from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2026:

Side	0 – 10 Years	10 – 20 Years	20 – 30 Years	30+ Years
Civil	5,50,764	34,738	5,401	790
Criminal	55,87,682	54,359	17,782	2,935
Total	61,38,446	89,097	23,183	3,725



CHAPTER 09

Rules and Notifications

Rules Framed and Amended

Gazette Notifications

Rules Framed and Amended

The Gujarat High Court Rules Committee and the District Judiciary Rules Committee:

The Gujarat High Court Rules Committee and the District Judiciary Rules Committee have undertaken work relating to framing of new Rules and amendment of existing Rules concerning the High Court of Gujarat as well as the District Judiciary of the State.

During the period from July 2023 to June 2026, the Committees considered a total of 42 subjects in their meetings, out of which recommendations / conclusions have been made in 37 subjects, while 5 subjects remain pending. The Committees have also prepared and submitted draft Rules for placing before the Full Court, which were approved in the Chamber Committee Meetings. The Rules so prepared include:

The Commissioner of Oaths for the High Court of Gujarat Rules, 2024

- The Gujarat Commissioner of Oaths Rules, 2024
- The High Court of Gujarat (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025
- The Gujarat District Courts (Right to Information) Rules, 2025

The Committees have dealt with various subjects relating to amendments in the Gujarat High Court Rules, 1993, Civil Manual, Criminal Manual, and other allied Rules. Several subjects were closed after due deliberation, while in a number of matters, necessary amendments were approved and notifications have been issued by the High Court from time to time. The amendments approved during the period include, inter alia, provisions relating to Designation of Senior Advocates, Right to Information Rules, Civil Procedure Mediation Rules, 2007, and various provisions of the Gujarat High Court Rules, 1993.

Further, the Committees have considered matters relating to Admiralty Jurisdiction, Original Jurisdiction procedures, arbitration matters, powers of attorney, destruction of records, and other procedural aspects, and necessary recommendations have been made or the subjects have been kept under consideration, as the case may be.

The Committees have also taken into consideration various judgments and orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court, and appropriate action has been taken, including amendments, circulation of judgments, or closure of subjects, wherever required. Certain new subjects were also placed before the Committees during the period, including matters relating to Admiralty Rules, tagging/de-tagging of cases, part-heard matters, amendments pursuant to new enactments, and procedural improvements, out of which some have been finalized and others are under active consideration.

Overall, the Gujarat High Court Rules Committee and the District Judiciary Rules Committee have carried out their functions by considering various subjects and making recommendations for framing and amendment of Rules, as required from time to time.

SARAS – Remote Adjudication for NI Act Cases (07/12/2024):

The Statewide Access to Remote Adjudication System (SARAS) was launched to facilitate mandatory e-filing and remote adjudication of cheque dishonour cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, through video conferencing. As a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Judicial Officers posted anywhere in Gujarat can adjudicate e-filed NI Act cases of Ahmedabad City without geographical constraints. By leveraging digital case records, video conferencing, and electronic transmission of proceedings, the initiative optimizes judicial resources, reduces pendency, and enhances efficiency, accessibility, and speed in the disposal of commercial disputes.





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Publication of "The Gujarat High Court Rules for Seamless Functioning of SARAS Courts (State Wide Access to Remote Adjudication System), 2026" (24/03/2026): The Gujarat High Court notified the SARAS Courts Rules, 2026 to establish a comprehensive legal and procedural framework for the seamless functioning of Remote Adjudication Courts, strengthening technology-enabled, efficient, and accessible justice delivery across the State.

Publication of the Nyayshruti Rules (05/06/2025):

The Nyayshruti Rules, 2025 were notified to facilitate the use of electronic communication and audio-video electronic means in District Courts, supporting the effective implementation of the new criminal laws.

Pilot Implementation of the NyayShruti Platform: The Nyayshruti Platform was introduced on a pilot basis in ten District Courts to facilitate the use of electronic communication and digital recording in judicial proceedings in the year 2026.

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Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial and Court Administration:



On 4th April 2026, the High Court of Gujarat launched a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, establishing a structured framework for the responsible, ethical, secure, transparent, and accountable use of Artificial Intelligence in judicial and court administration. The Policy seeks to harness the potential of AI to enhance administrative efficiency, support legal research, streamline workflows, and improve productivity, while safeguarding the core principles of judicial independence, fairness, confidentiality, and human accountability.

The Policy clearly establishes that AI shall remain a support tool and not a substitute for judicial reasoning or decision-making. Its use is permitted only in defined areas and is subject to human supervision, independent verification, data privacy, and accountability. By introducing safeguards for authorised use, monitoring, reporting, and periodic review, the Policy seeks to ensure that technological advancement strengthens justice delivery without compromising the essential human and constitutional character of adjudication.



3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

By confining AI to the narrowest conceivable role—purely anonymized, metadata-driven case allocation and research of legal principles, the High Court reaffirms its unwavering dedication to human supremacy in justice delivery while harnessing limited technological assistance to reduce administrative imbalances that might otherwise delay access to justice.

Keeping in mind the above core philosophy and view points following general principles are laid down.

3.1 Judicial Independence

Artificial intelligence shall never be employed for any form of decision-making, judicial reasoning, substantive order drafting or judgment preparation, bail/sentencing considerations, or any substantive adjudicatory process. Broadly, Artificial intelligence shall not be used—directly or indirectly—for any aspect of judicial decision, adjudication, reasoning, application of law, interpretation of facts, weighing of arguments, determination of rights/liabilities, sentencing, bail, interim orders, or final judgment. Each judge remains fully and personally responsible for every order, judgment, and observation issued in their name.

Gazette Notifications

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
	Year 2023 (July to December 2023)		
1	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2023 [Amendment 2 of 2023]	03/08/2023	
2	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2023 [Amendment 3 of 2023]	07/09/2023	
3	The Arbitration Centre (Domestic and International), High Court of Gujarat (Amendment) Rules, 2023 (Amendment No. 1 of 2023)	14/09/2023	
4	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2023 [Amendment 4 of 2023]	19/10/2023	
5	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2023 [Amendment 5 of 2023]	26/10/2023	

Year 2024

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
1	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2023 (No. 2 of 2023)	18/01/2024	
2	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2023 [Amendment 7 of 2023]	25/01/2024	
3	Amendments in the Criminal Manual, 1977	23/02/2024	
4	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2024 (No. 1 of 2024)	22/04/2024	
5	Amendments in paragraph 2B of Chapter-I of the Civil Manual, 1960	22/04/2024	
6	Amendments in paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of Chapter-I of the Criminal Manual, 1977	22/04/2024	
7	The Commissioner of Oaths for the High Court of Gujarat Rules, 2024	22/04/2024	

Year 2024

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
8	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 2 of 2024]	16/05/2024	
9	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 3 of 2024]	13/06/2024	
10	"Legal Assistants in the High Court of Gujarat (Apointment & ServiceConditions) Amendment Rules, 2024" [Amendment 1 of 2024]	20/06/2024	
11	Amendments in the Chapter-XXIII of the Civil Manual, 1960	28/06/2024	
12	Amendments in Chapter-VIII of the Criminal Manual, 1977	28/06/2024	
13	The Gujarat Commissioner of Oaths Rules, 2024	28/06/2024	
14	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 4 of 2024]	04/07/2024	

Year 2024

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
15	"Legal Assistants in the High Court of Gujarat (Apointment & Service Conditions) Amendment Rules, 2024" [Amendment 2 of 2024]	18/07/2024	
16	The Commissioner of Oaths for the High Court of Gujarat (Amendment) Rules, 2024 [No.1 of 2024]	22/07/2024	
17	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 5 of 2024]	01/08/2024	
18	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 6 of 2024]	08/08/2024	
19	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 7 of 2024]	26/09/2024	
20	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2024 (No. 2 of 2024)	13/11/2024	
21	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2024 [Amendment 8 of 2024]	05/12/2024	

Year 2025

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
1	Mr. Dilipkumar Samrathdan Gadhvi, Advocate, had been empowered to function and perform duties as Commissioner of Oaths for the High Court.	30/01/2025	
2	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2025 [Amendment 1 of 2025]	20/02/2025	
3	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2025 [Amendment 2 of 2025]	27/02/2025	
4	Amendments in the Chapter-XXVIII of the Civil Manual, 1960	01/05/2025	
5	The Commissioner of Oaths for the High Court of Gujarat (Amendment) Rules, 2025 [No.1 of 2025]	17/07/2025	
6	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2025 (No. 1 of 2025)	29/07/2025	
7	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2025 [Amendment 3 of 2025]	04/09/2025	

Year 2025

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
8	The High Court of Gujarat (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025	17/09/2025	
9	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2025 (No. 2 of 2025)	08/10/2025	
10	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2025 [Amendment 4 of 2025]	23/10/2025	
11	Amendment in the Civil Procedure Mediation (Gujarat) Draft Rules, 2007	29/12/2025	
12	The Gujarat District Courts (Right to Information) Rules, 2025	29/12/2025	
13	The Gujarat Commissioner of Oaths (Amendment) Rules, 2025 (No. 1 of 2025)	29/12/2025	
14	The Gujarat High Court (Right to Information) Amendment Rules, 2025 (No.1 of 2025)	29/12/2025	

Year 2026 (January to June 2026)

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
1	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2025 (No. 3 of 2025)	02/01/2026	
2	Amendments in the Civil Manual, 1960	02/01/2026	
3	Amendments in the Criminal Manual, 1977	02/01/2026	
4	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2026 [Amendment 1 of 2026]	28/01/2026	
5	The Arbitration Centre (Domestic and International), High Court of Gujarat (Amendment) Rules, 2026 (Amendment No. 1 of 2026)	28/01/2026	
6	The High Court of Gujarat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers and Staff) Amendment Rules, 2026". [Amendment 2 of 2026]	06/02/2026	
7	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2026." (No. I of 2026)	10/03/2026	

Year 2026 (January to June 2026)

Sr. No.	Gazette Notification	Published on	QR Code
8	The Gujarat High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2026 (No.2 of 2026)	02/04/2026	
9	The High Court of Gujarat (Designation of Senior Advocates) (Amendment) Rules, 2026 (No. 1 of 2026)	14/05/2026	

Hon'ble the Chief Justice with Hon'ble Members of the "Newsletter-cum-Editorial Board and Souvenir" Committee alongwith the team



From left to right (sitting) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha P. Mayee, Hon'ble Smt. Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati, Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pranav Trivedi.

From left to right (standing) Mr. Hardipsinh S. Jhala, Deputy Section Officer, Mr. Dhaivat M. Andhariya, Court Manager, Mr. D. J. Mehta, Registrar (Inspection & Finance), Mr. Divyajeet J. Gadhavi, Ms. Fauziya M. Momin, Legal Assistants.

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THE HIGH COURT
OF GUJARAT



THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT

TRIENNIAL REPORT 2023–2026

Period: 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2026

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rg-hc-guj@nic.in
www.gujarathighcourt.nic.in

+91 79 27664601
+91 79 27664615

Sola, Ahmedabad, Gujarat,
India-380 060