

03 Feb 2025 – 08 Feb 2025



# Manupatra Weekly Wrap

A round-up of the last week's key updates to keep you informed on the go!

# Case Laws



## **ARBITRATION**

**Delhi High Court:** Under Section 34 of Arbitration Act, interpretation of contract terms should be decided primarily by arbitrator, not court

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. Vs. Voestalpine Schienen GmbH, Austria, Dated: 03.02.2025, (MANU/DE/0576/2025; 2025:DHC:60)

The **Delhi High Court** has observed that the interpretation of contract terms is primarily the responsibility of the arbitrator, unless it is determined that such an interpretation is completely impossible.

**Delhi High Court:** Award passed by improperly appointed arbitrator is non-existent in law and invalid

Isar Engineers Private Ltd. Vs. NTPC-Sail Power Company Ltd., Dated: 03.02.2025, (MANU/DE/0575/2025; 2025:DHC:658)

The **Delhi High Court** has observed that it is well-established law that an arbitrator is a creation of the contract and must operate within its terms. If a specific mechanism for their appointment is outlined, it must be followed in its exact letter, spirit, and intent. Failure to do so renders the arbitrator without jurisdiction, making the appointment non-existent and invalid.

## **CIVIL**

**Supreme Court:** Repealing an Act doesn't need presidential assent, even if, the original Act did

M/S S.R.S. Travels By Its Proprietor K.T. Rajashekar Vs. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Workers & Ors., Dated: 06.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0147/2025; 2025 INSC 152)

The **Supreme Court** has observed that "A repeal statute does not recreate the legal framework anew but rather extinguishes the earlier Act's operative provisions; it is not subject to the same procedural requirements as an original enactment when it comes to the need for fresh assent, provided that the repeal falls within the legislative competence of the State".

**Supreme Court** allows all disabled candidates to use scribe in exams, regardless of meeting disability benchmark

Gulshan Kumar Vs. Institute of Banking Personnel Selection & Ors., Dated: 03.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0140/2025; 2025 INSC 142)

The **Supreme Court** accepted a writ petition from a candidate with Focal Hand Dystonia, seeking the use of a scribe, referencing the landmark *Vikas Kumar v. UPSC* (2021) case, which ruled that meeting the benchmark disability is not a requirement for obtaining a scribe.

## **Madras High Court: Can't use 'Freedom of Press' to tarnish reputation**

*T.R.Balu Vs. R.Kannan & Ors., Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/TN/0548/2025)*

The **Madras High Court** has stated that in the event of enjoying the freedom of the press, there is a liberty to publish news to bring to the people with solid proof, and news publishers should not tarnish a person's image and reputation without verifying the veracity of the news and confirming the same.

## **CRIMINAL**

### **Supreme Court: Informing relatives of arrestee about arrest isn't compliance of mandate under Article 22(1)**

*Vihaan Kumar Vs. State Of Haryana & Anr., Dated: 07.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0161/2025; 2025 INSC 162)*

The **Supreme Court** has clarified that communication of the grounds of arrest to the relative of the arrestee is no compliance with the mandate of Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India.

### **Supreme Court: To charge someone with abetment of suicide, alleged harassment must have left the victim with no option but to take their life**

*Ayyub & Ors. Vs. State Of Uttar Pradesh & Anr., Dated: 07.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0150/2025; 2025 INSC 168)*

The **Supreme Court** has observed that "in order to make out an offence under Section 306 IPC, specific abetment as contemplated by Section 107 IPC on the part of the accused with an intention to bring about the suicide of the person concerned as a result of that abetment is required".

### **Supreme Court: Acquittal in criminal case does not prevent departmental proceedings against public servant**

*Airports Authority Of India Vs. Pradip Kumar Banerjee, Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0146/2025; 2025 INSC 149)*

The **Supreme Court** has observed that a public servant acquitted in a corruption case due to insufficient evidence meeting the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard can still be subject to a departmental inquiry

### **Supreme Court emphasizes need for careful scrutiny in cases with FIRs against unknown persons and when accused are unfamiliar to witnesses**

*Wahid & Ors. Vs. State Govt. Of NCT of Delhi, Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0145/2025; 2025 INSC 145)*

The **Supreme Court** has observed that "In cases where the FIR is lodged against unknown persons and the persons made accused are not known to the witnesses, material collected during investigation plays an important role to determine whether there is a credible case

*against the accused. In such type of cases, the courts have to meticulously examine the evidence regarding (a) how the investigating agency derived clue about the involvement of the accused in the crime; (b) the manner in which the accused was arrested; and (c) the manner in which the accused was identified”.*

### **Supreme Court** acquits murder accused, stating extrajudicial confession lacks credibility and circumstances were not proven

*Ramu Appa Mahapatar Vs. The State Of Maharashtra, Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0144/2025; 2025 INSC 147).*

The **Supreme Court** has observed that “*The circumstances would not only have to be proved beyond reasonable doubt, those would also have to be shown to be closely connected with the principal fact sought to be inferred from those circumstances. All these circumstances should be complete and there should be no gap left in the chain of evidence. The proved circumstances must be consistent only with the hypothesis of the guilt of the accused and totally inconsistent with his innocence”.*

### **Delhi High Court:** Furnishing grounds of arrest to arrestee an hour before remand isn't due compliance of S. 50 of Cr.PC

*Marfing Tamang @ Maaina Tamang Vs. State (NCT Of Delhi), Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/DE/0755/2025).*

The **Delhi High Court** has observed that furnishing grounds of arrest to an arrestee an hour before remand cannot be considered as due compliance with Section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

### **Kerala High Court:** Unjust to take action against second doctor under Section 21 when first doctor had already reported POCSO victim's crime to police

*DR. V.K. Sulochana Vs. State of Kerala, Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/KE/0269/2025; 2025:KER:7822).*

The **Kerala High Court** has held that when the initial doctor reports the commission of the offence under the POCSO Act without much delay and on that basis, crime is registered, criminal prosecution against the doctor who subsequently treated the same victim for the offence under POCSO Act, is an abuse of process of court.

## **CONTRACT**

### **Supreme Court:** Forfeiture of earnest money is permissible as long as amount is not excessive and does not constitute a penalty

*Godrej Projects Development Limited Vs. Anil Karlekar & Ors., Dated: 03.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0138/2025; 2025 INSC 143).*

The **Supreme Court** has observed that “if the forfeiture of earnest money under a contract is reasonable, then it does not fall within Section 74 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, since, such a forfeiture does not amount to imposing a penalty”.

## **CONTEMPT OF COURT**

**Gujarat High Court** criticizes applicant and lawyer for making baseless and insulting remarks against judges in contempt petition

*Gujarat Operational Creditors Association Acting Through Ms. Priti Chaudhary Vs. Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. & Ors., Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/GJ/0249/2025)*

The **Gujarat High Court** criticized the Gujarat Operational Creditors Association and its lawyer, for filing a "disingenuous" and "frivolous" contempt petition against Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India and others. The court also expressed displeasure over the "unwarranted remarks" made about its judges.

## **DIRECT TAXATION**

**Supreme Court:** "First Offence" is the offence committed prior to the showcase notice

*Vinubhai Mohanlal Dobaria Vs. Chief Commissioner Of Income Tax & Anr., Dated: 07.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0156/2025; 2025 INSC 155)*

The **Supreme Court** while setting aside a Gujarat High Court judgment, has observed that the 'first offense' is the offense committed prior to the show cause notice.

**Delhi High Court** explains the time period surviving for issuing reassessment notices

*Kanwaljeet Kaur & Ors. Vs. Assistant Commissioner Of Income Tax Circle (34) 1 Delhi & Ors., Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/DE/0622/2025; 2025:DHC:656)*

The **Delhi High Court**, while hearing petitions on reassessment action commenced in violation of the time frames listed under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, has clarified the time period surviving under Section 149 for issuing reassessment notices.

## **ELECTION**

**Delhi High Court:** Election expenditure not property maintained doesn't constitute 'corrupt practice'

*Ramesh Kumar Khatri Vs. Durgesh Pathak, Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/DE/0756/2025; 2025:DHC:664)*

The **Delhi High Court** while dismissing an election petition, has held that a candidate failing to maintain proper accounts of election expenditure or inaccurately disclosing the expenditure will not constitute 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

## **LAND ACQUISITION**

**Supreme Court** dismisses plea seeking prospective applicability of judgment allowing interest for NH Land Acquisitions

*Union of India and another Vs. Tarsem Singh and others, Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0143/2025; 2025 INSC 146).*

The **Supreme Court** has dismissed a plea seeking clarification on applicability of grant of solatium and interest for National Highways land acquisition. The Court stated that granting such clarification would nullify the very relief granted by the Court.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**Delhi High Court:** Courts have jurisdiction in trademark cases if online-marketed goods are accessible within their jurisdiction

*Johnson & Johnson Pte. Ltd. Vs. Mr. Abbireddi Satish Kumar & Ors., Dated: 04.02.2025, (MANU/DE/0754/2025; 2025:DHC:662).*

The **Delhi High Court** has observed that in a trademark infringement case even if a party isn't physically selling goods in a specific area, but offers them for sale through a website accessible there, the court in that jurisdiction would have the authority to hear the case.

## **INSOLVENCY**

**NCLAT:** Delay of 115 days in refiling appeal cannot be justified on trivial grounds

*CA Ramchandra Dallaram Choudhary, Liquidator of Anil Limited Vs. Adani Infrastructure & Developers Pvt. Ltd., Dated: 06.02.2025, (MANU/NL/0086/2025).*

The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** has observed that permitting the condonation of a refiling delay on frivolous grounds would undermine the timeliness and integrity of the liquidation process. In this case, the tribunal rejected the request to condone the 115-day delay in refiling the appeal.

## **MOTOR VEHICLE**

**Supreme Court** upheld Karnataka law that grants authority to issue transport permits to STA Secretary

*M/S S.R.S. Travels Vs. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Workers & Ors., Dated: 06.02.2025, (MANU/SC/0147/2025; 2025 INSC 152).*

The **Supreme Court** has observed that "the practical impact of not allowing delegation would be to overload the STA with routine functions, potentially causing undue delays and inefficiencies in the permit-issuance process. Such delays could disrupt the balance of

*public transport service delivery, which the Legislature clearly sought to improve by liberalizing the regime for non-stage carriage permits. In this light, the delegation of routine permit-granting powers is not only legally permissible but is also necessary to meet the practical demands of an evolving transport sector”.*



A hand holding a smartphone is shown in the background. Overlaid on the image are several white notification icons, including envelopes and checkmarks, with curved lines indicating they are floating or vibrating. A semi-transparent grey box is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Notification Updates'.

# Notification Updates

## **Ministry of Cooperation**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0133/2025**

The Yuva Sahakar Scheme, implemented by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation**, aims to support newly formed cooperative societies with innovative ideas by providing long-term loans with interest subvention. The scheme targets young entrepreneur cooperatives operational for at least three months and can be combined with other government subsidies. It is promoted nationwide through NCDC's regional offices and training centers.

## **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0125/2025**

The Uniform Code of Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices 2024 aims to prevent unethical marketing and ensure responsible promotion of pharmaceutical products by regulating interactions between doctors and pharmaceutical representatives. It prohibits gifts and monetary benefits to doctors, requires companies to self-declare adherence, and establishes a complaint adjudication process with penalties for violations. The code aligns with existing regulations for doctors' conduct and prescription practices.

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0131/2025**

The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy, 2012 establishes a framework for drug pricing based on essentiality and market-based pricing. It regulates prices of consumer medicines, not bulk drugs. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has signed international agreements for regulatory cooperation.

## **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

**Notification No.: GSR88(E), Dated: 31.01.2025, MANU/EINT/0002/2025**

The document outlines amendments to the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance Rules, focusing on promoting ease of living and better access to services. It details the process for preparing and examining proposals for Aadhaar authentication by government entities and other organizations, ensuring alignment with specified purposes and state interests.

## **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**

**Notification No.: IBBI/2024-2025/GN/REG122, Dated: 03.02.2025, MANU/NMIC/0029/2025**

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** introduced Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 to further amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016.

## **Ministry of Home Affairs**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0127/2025**

The BHARATPOL Portal, launched by the **Union Home Minister**, facilitates collaboration between Indian and foreign law enforcement agencies on transnational crimes, including cybercrimes and terrorism. It includes modules for connecting agencies, broadcasting requests, and accessing INTERPOL resources. The portal has already processed multiple requests for INTERPOL notices and international assistance.

## **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 03.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0121/2025**

The **CAQM Sub-Committee** has revoked Stage-III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR due to significant improvement in air quality, with the AQI dropping to 286. However, actions under Stages II and I will remain in effect to prevent further deterioration of air quality.

## **Ministry of Labour & Employment**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 03.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0119/2025**

The e-Shram portal, launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, serves as a comprehensive national database for unorganised workers, providing them with a Universal Account Number and access to various social security schemes. It has registered over 30.58 crore workers and integrated 12 central government schemes, offering multilingual support in 22 Indian languages to enhance accessibility.

## **Ministry of Finance**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 01.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0111/2025**

The **Union Budget 2025-26** introduces a new tax regime with no income tax on annual income up to Rs. 12 lakh, and Rs. 12.75 lakh for salaried taxpayers due to a standard deduction. The revised tax slabs aim to provide substantial tax relief to the middle class, boosting household consumption and investment.

## **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0126/2025**

The **Union Budget 2025-26** introduces measures to strengthen the MSME sector by enhancing credit access, supporting first-time entrepreneurs, and promoting labour-intensive industries. Key initiatives include increased investment and turnover limits for MSME classification, enhanced credit guarantees, and sector-specific schemes for footwear, leather, and toy manufacturing. The budget aims to foster innovation, competitiveness, and resource access to expand MSMEs' contribution to India's economic growth.

## **Reserve Bank of India**

**Press Release No.: 2024-2025/2069, Dated: 03.02.2025, MANU/RPRL/0086/2025**

The **Reserve Bank of India** announced the withdrawal of INR. 2000 banknotes in May 2023, and as of January 2025, 98.15% of these notes have been returned. The notes remain legal tender, and exchange facilities are available at RBI Issue Offices and through India Post.

## **Ministry of Women and Child Development**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 02.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0113/2025**

The Gender Budget allocation in the **Union Budget 2025-26** increased to 8.86%, with Rs. 4.49 lakh crore allocated for the welfare of women and girls, marking a 37.25% rise from the previous year. A total of 49 Ministries/Departments and 5 UTs reported allocations, with significant contributions from the Ministry of Women & Child Development and other key departments.

## **Securities and Exchange Board of India**

**Circular No.: SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD-PoD/P/CIR/2025/0000013, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/SSMD/0003/2025**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** is refining the regulatory framework to enable safer participation of retail investors in algorithmic trading. This involves defining roles and responsibilities for investors, brokers, algo providers, and market infrastructure institutions, ensuring proper checks and balances. The framework includes guidelines for API use, broker responsibilities, algo provider registration, and exchange oversight to protect investor interests and market integrity.

**Circular No.: SEBI/HO/MIRSD/TPD/CIR/2025/10, Dated: 31.01.2025, MANU/SSMD/0002/2025**

The document outlines a framework for monitoring and supervising the system audits of stockbrokers using technology-based measures. It mandates the development of a web-based platform by stock exchanges to oversee the audit process, standardize audit procedures, and set criteria for auditor empanelment. The framework aims to enhance audit quality, ensure compliance, and address technology risks in the securities market.

## **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**Press Information Bureau, Dated: 06.02.2025, MANU/PIBU/0138/2025**

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** has issued recommendations for revising the National Numbering Plan to address constraints in numbering resources due to rapid growth. Key recommendations include migrating to a 10-digit closed numbering scheme for fixed-line services, implementing measures to inhibit spam calls, and ensuring efficient use of numbering resources for mobile and M2M communications.

**Press Release No. : 08/2025, Dated: 04.02.2025, MANU/TRAI/0004/2025**

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** has released recommendations for auctioning frequency spectrum in the 37-40 GHz bands for IMT, excluding the 42.5-43.5 GHz range due to device ecosystem limitations. The recommendations include auction details like block size, spectrum cap, and reserve prices, and suggest allowing various service providers to participate in the auction.

# News



## Administrative

**04.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** has held that once a case is notified on the cause list, unless there is a specific order to that effect, either of the bench concerned or Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Registry has no authority to delete a case which is already listed.

## Arbitration

**04.02.2025**

The **Jharkhand High Court** has observed that the court with jurisdiction over the seat of arbitration is entitled to entertain a petition under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act.

## Banking

**05.02.2025**

The **Karnataka High Court** has issued a notice to banks on a petition filed by fugitive Vijay Mallya that sought directions on banks to provide account statements for accounts owed by Vijay Mallya.

## Civil

**07.02.2025**

The **Calcutta High Court** dismissed the West Bengal government's appeal seeking the death penalty for Sanjay Roy, the convicted accused in the RG Kar rape and murder case.

The **Kerala Budget for 2025-26** has proposed a revision of court fees in several areas. In the 2024-2025 Budget, fee hikes were suggested for cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act and the Family Court Act. This year's budget aims to extend these increases to other areas as well, through amendments to the Kerala Court Fees and Suit Valuation Act.

**06.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** while handing over the charge of the Amateur Kabbadi Federation of India to the governing body, has asked the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to ensure that Kabbadi players are allowed to participate in the Asian Kabbadi Championship scheduled to be held from the 20th February.

The **Supreme Court** while hearing a matter asked an Advocate-on-Record (AoR) which rule permits the AoR to authorize another advocate to argue. The Court further referred to Supreme Court Rules in which it is stated that no AoR shall authorize whatsoever, except another AoR, to act for him in any case.

The **Chhattisgarh High Court** has taken suo motu cognizance of non-functioning of State Bar Council of Chhattisgarh since 2021. The Court has noted that various important activities have come to a stop due to such non-functioning.

The **Karnataka High Court** rejected a public interest litigation that sought a directive for the Lokayukta to investigate MLAs, MPs, and MLCs whose assets are disproportionate to their known sources of income, based on a representation submitted by the petitioner in December 2023.

### 05.02.2025

The **Bombay High Court** issued a notice to the Maharashtra government regarding a public interest litigation petition filed by a Mumbai lawyer. The petition seeks the establishment of a framework that would allow children involved in custody disputes and family court cases to appoint their own lawyers.

### 04.02.2025

The **Supreme Court** has remarked that some strong measures are required to be taken in order to infuse purity, fairness, autonomy, and independence in the election process of sports federations, particularly to oust such persons who have monopolized the sports federation for their vested interest.

The **Supreme Court** has disposed of a public interest litigation seeking the identification of children by their mother's name in official documents after noting that the majority of States have made policies to ensure that the mother's name is included in all official records.

"Apologize Genuinely or Face Contempt Proceedings": **Bombay High Court** to Society for Disregarding Order on Feeding Stray Dogs

A Division Bench of the **Gujarat High Court** urged the Chief Justice to remove videos of livestreamed court hearings from YouTube after a certain time period.

### 03.02.2025

The **Supreme Court** has raised concerns over the high case backlog in the Allahabad High Court, highlighting that each judge is handling between 15,000 to 20,000 cases. It emphasized the urgent need to fill judicial vacancies to address the issue

Aaradhya Bachchan approached the **Delhi High Court**, seeking a summary judgment in her lawsuit against misleading content.

The **Rajasthan government** presented the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025 in the State Assembly.

The **Madras High Court** questioned the ongoing use of the term "Gender Identity Disorder" to describe individuals who identify as transgender or part of the LGBTQIA+ community.



## Criminal

**07.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** declined to intervene with the Kerala High Court's order to register FIRs based on the testimonies provided by witnesses/victims before the Justice Hema Committee concerning the sexual exploitation of women in the Malayalam film industry.

**06.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** while hearing a plea filed by officials of Discovery India, has granted interim police protection to the officials and property of the broadcasting channel over threats for a documentary on Asaram Bapu.

The **Allahabad High Court Bar Association**, under the leadership of its president, Senior Advocate Anil Tiwari, has approached the High Court, calling for the filing of a First Information Report (FIR) against the police officers involved in the alleged assault on lawyers in Prayagraj on February 4 and requesting departmental action against the responsible officers.

**05.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** while hearing the issue of fake encounters in Assam has stated that there is not going to be any opinion on the merits of the case and the only limited issue is compliance with guidelines framed in the People's Union for Civil Liberties Vs. State of Maharashtra (MANU/SC/0882/2014;2014 INSC 664).

**04.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** has directed that the appeals preferred by the accused or the victims in matters under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 will not be dismissed on the ground that the delay cannot be condoned beyond 90 days.

The **Delhi High Court** has approached the SC seeking clarification on whether special courts constituted under the NIA Act, 2008, if designated as a Special MP/MLA Court can concurrently exercise its jurisdiction over other offenders as per its existing statutory mandate and can decide those cases parallelly.

The **Gujarat High Court** while denying bail to an individual booked under the NDPS Act, has observed that these offences have a cascading effect and are in vogue these days, thus destroying the capabilities and lives of a substantial chunk of the population and trend has been growing over the years.

**03.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** dismissed an appeal by the Karnataka government challenging a 2023 High Court ruling that necrophilia (sexual acts on a dead woman's body) does not constitute rape under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The **Supreme Court** dismissed a public interest litigation petition that challenged the validity of key provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961.

The **Kerala High Court** has observed that cruelty is to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. What constitutes cruelty in a matrimonial relationship depends on the unique circumstances, behaviour and experience of the parties involved.

## **Customs**

**05.02.2025**

The **Bombay High Court** will hear Skoda Volkswagen India's challenge to a \$1.4 billion tax demand from Indian customs authorities on February 17.

## **Education**

**05.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** directed that all cases concerning the results of the Common Law Admission Test 2025 for undergraduate courses (CLAT UG) pending in various High Courts be moved to the Delhi High Court.

The **Bombay High Court** rejected a PIL that sought uniform guidelines for awarding tender contracts for solid waste management in the state, stating that the plea lacked public interest.

## **Environment**

**03.02.2025**

The **Supreme Court** directed that neither the Central government nor the States shall take any action that would reduce forest land unless compensatory land for afforestation is provided by either the State or the Union of India.

## **Family**

**07.02.2025**

The **Madhya Pradesh High Court** while hearing petition filed by several parents for production of children that are in custody of Child Welfare Committee, has stated that High Court is superior custodian than the Child Welfare Committee and has the power to decide whether or not to keep the children in childcare institution.

## Intellectual Property Rights

**03.02.2025**

The **Delhi High Court** issued an interim injunction, prohibiting a pharmaceutical company from using the trademark "NOVITAS" in response to a trademark infringement lawsuit filed by the global pharmaceutical giant, Novartis.



# International Updates

## **Capital Market**

### **AUSTRAC invites industry feedback on proposed amendments to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing rules**

The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) has opened a public consultation on proposed changes to the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing rules. Following the enactment of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment Act 2024, AUSTRAC has released the first Exposure Draft outlining the new rules and is seeking industry input. The draft aims to provide clarity for reporting entities, eliminate overly rigid requirements, and introduce flexibility in compliance measures. The proposed changes cover areas such as AML/CTF programs, customer due diligence, correspondent banking relationships, compliance reports, and reporting groups. The consultation period will remain open until February 14, 2025.

## **Healthcare & Life Sciences**

### **Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommends new and amended pharmaceutical benefits scheme listings for AbbVie's Humira while rejecting Bristol-Myers Squibb's Opdivo for non-small cell lung cancer**

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has published its recommendations from the December 2024 intracycle meeting, approving new listings for AbbVie's Humira for juvenile idiopathic arthritis and chronic plaque psoriasis in paediatric patients. Amendments have also been made to allow dose escalation for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. The recommendations follow the listing of Hyrimoz, a high-concentration adalimumab biosimilar, in January 2025. Meanwhile, Bristol-Myers Squibb's request to include Opdivo for perioperative treatment of resectable non-small cell lung cancer was not recommended, prompting the company to seek further discussions with the committee. Opdivo is also under review by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma.

## **Patent**

### **High Court dismisses Commonwealth's damages claim in long-running clopidogrel patent dispute**

In a closely split 3:2 decision, the High Court of Australia has ruled against the Commonwealth in its claim for compensation from Sanofi over an interlocutory injunction that prevented Apotex Australia from launching generic clopidogrel products. The majority, comprising Acting Chief Justice Gordon and Justices Edelman and Steward, upheld the lower court's decision that the Commonwealth was not entitled to damages under the undertaking given by Sanofi. Justices Jagot and Beech-Jones dissented, arguing that errors in the primary and appellate decisions warranted overturning the ruling. The decision marks the end of 14 years of litigation surrounding the clopidogrel patent dispute.

## **Federal Court denies delayed injunction application in veterinary patent dispute**

In *Abbey Laboratories Pty Ltd v Virbac (Australia) Pty Ltd [2024] FCA 1488*, the Federal Court of Australia has refused an interlocutory injunction sought by Virbac (Australia) Pty Ltd to prevent Abbey Laboratories Pty Ltd from launching a generic version of its cattle parasite treatment, Cydectic Platinum. Justice Jackman ruled that Virbac's ten-month delay in seeking injunctive relief after learning of Abbey's application was a decisive factor in dismissing the request. The case underscores the importance of timely action when seeking injunctions and highlights the challenges in quantifying potential losses in patent disputes.

## **Public Inquiry**

### **Victorian government announces board of inquiry into McCrae landslide**

The Victorian Labor Government has announced the establishment of a Board of Inquiry to investigate the causes of the recent landslide in McCrae, which led to multiple home evacuations and the hospitalization of a council worker. The inquiry will examine the circumstances surrounding the incident, assess whether preventive measures could have averted it, and evaluate the adequacy of past risk mitigation efforts. The Board's findings will inform future strategies to prevent similar occurrences across Victoria. The terms of reference and panel members will be announced in the coming weeks, and local residents will have the opportunity to participate in the inquiry process.

## **Trademark**

### **Rise in fraudulent intellectual property demands as scammers impersonate Australian law firms**

Intellectual property experts have reported a surge in sophisticated scams targeting businesses through fraudulent emails posing as legitimate IP firms and government agencies. These scams involve fake legal correspondence, often using the names of real Australian IP practitioners, to trick businesses into making unnecessary payments for trademark services. Some fraudsters impersonate authorities such as IP Australia, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and international IP offices. Businesses are advised to verify the legitimacy of unsolicited trademark-related emails before responding and to consult their legal representatives to avoid falling victim to these fraudulent schemes.

## **Arbitration & Alternative Dispute Resolution**

### **Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center issues guidelines on artificial intelligence in arbitration**

Artificial intelligence is increasingly being integrated into the legal profession, transforming various aspects of legal practice, including arbitration. To address concerns regarding the use of AI in arbitration, the Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center has released the Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Arbitration. These guidelines provide a principle-based framework for arbitral institutions, arbitrators, legal representatives, and experts involved in arbitration proceedings. While non-binding, they serve as a reference to ensure transparency, fairness, and ethical considerations when using AI tools in arbitration.

## **Capital Market**

### **Canadian Securities Administrators provide guidance on artificial intelligence disclosures by public companies**

The Canadian Securities Administrators have issued CSA Staff Notice and Consultation 11-348, outlining how Canadian securities laws apply to the use of artificial intelligence by market participants, including registrants, marketplaces, and reporting issuers. The guidance focuses on the disclosure obligations of public companies regarding their use of AI, including periodic and timely reporting requirements. The notice adopts the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's definition of an AI system and emphasizes the need for transparency in AI-related disclosures to protect investors and maintain market integrity.

## **Company & Commercial**

### **Québec unveils draft regulations on warranty of availability for replacement parts and repair services**

Following the passage of Bill 29, the Act to Protect Consumers Against Planned Obsolescence and to Promote the Durability, Repairability, and Maintenance of Goods, Québec has introduced draft regulations to clarify its provisions on the availability of replacement parts and repair services. The draft regulation, published on January 22, 2025, aims to provide guidance on the new legal warranty of good working order for commonly used goods. Set to come into force on October 5, 2025, the regulation is currently open for a 45-day consultation period and may be subject to revisions before implementation.

## **Litigation**

### **Ontario Superior Court rules class action notices cannot be used for recruitment of plaintiffs**

In the case of *Pugliese v. Chartwell*, 2024 ONSC 7146, the Ontario Superior Court ruled that class action notices should not be used as a tool for recruiting new plaintiffs. Justice Morgan denied a proposal for direct notice to putative class members after certification was refused, distinguishing it from cases where certification had been granted. This decision

follows an earlier ruling in *Pugliese v. Chartwell*, 2024 ONSC 1135, where some proposed class actions related to COVID-19 infections in Ontario long-term care homes were certified while others were dismissed due to the absence of representative plaintiffs with valid claims. The court emphasized that notices must be used for legitimate legal purposes rather than for soliciting new claimants.

## **Media & Entertainment**

### **British Columbia Supreme Court affirms defamation laws limit freedom of expression**

In the case of *Nanaimo (City) v. Propp*, 2024 BCSC 2465, the British Columbia Supreme Court issued a permanent injunction prohibiting defamatory statements against a municipal communications manager. The defendant had publicly accused the plaintiff of inappropriate conduct related to his involvement in gender-inclusive educational initiatives. The court ruled that freedom of expression does not justify defamation without legal excuse or justification. The decision reinforces the principle that individuals cannot use free speech rights to spread false and harmful allegations, particularly after receiving a cease-and-desist notice.

## **Real Estate**

### **Condominium owners cannot withhold common expenses due to claims against the corporation**

A recent case has reaffirmed that condominium owners cannot refuse to pay their common expenses even if they have a claim against the corporation. In this case, a commercial unit owner withheld payments since 2019, citing issues such as improper maintenance of common elements and errors in water charge calculations. The corporation registered a lien, which escalated to over \$975,000 by the time of the hearing. The owner sought to have the lien discharged, arguing that their claim exempted them from paying arrears. However, the court relied on Section 84(3)(b) of the Condominium Act, which clearly states that an owner's obligation to contribute to common expenses is not affected by any claims against the corporation. The ruling highlights the necessity for all owners to fulfill their financial obligations to ensure the effective functioning of condominium corporations.

## **CHINA**

## **Information Technology & Data Protection**

### **Senator Josh Hawley introduces comprehensive United States-China artificial intelligence decoupling bill**

On January 29, Senator Josh Hawley introduced the Decoupling America's Artificial Intelligence Capabilities from China Act (S. 321), a legislative proposal aimed at severing the United States' dependence on China in artificial intelligence research and development. The bill seeks to prohibit the import and export of artificial intelligence and generative artificial intelligence technologies between the two nations. It also aims to prevent American companies, educational institutions, and individuals from financing, collaborating with, or transferring intellectual property related to artificial intelligence research to Chinese entities. If enacted, the bill would impose stringent restrictions on investments and partnerships involving artificial intelligence technology developed or produced in China.



## **Trade & Customs**

### **United States imposes tariffs on Canada, China, and Mexico amid rising trade tensions**

On February 1, 2025, President Donald Trump signed three executive orders imposing new tariffs on imports from Canada, China, and Mexico, effective February 4, 2025. The new measures introduce a 25 percent tariff on most Canadian imports, with a 10 percent tariff applied to energy and energy resources. Additionally, a 10 percent tariff is imposed on all Chinese imports. The announcement has triggered immediate retaliation threats from affected countries, with Mexico negotiating a temporary pause in tariffs and Canada considering similar talks. The measures add to existing trade duties, including Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods and Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

### **China announces retaliatory tariffs and non-tariff measures in response to new United States trade restrictions**

On February 4, 2025, China announced new retaliatory tariffs on imports from the United States following President Donald Trump's executive order imposing a 10 percent tariff on all Chinese goods. Effective February 10, China will impose an additional 15 percent duty on United States exports of coal, coke, and liquefied natural gas, alongside a 10 percent duty on crude oil, agricultural machinery, and large-displacement vehicles. In parallel, China has filed a formal complaint with the World Trade Organization and announced export controls on five critical minerals. These measures mark a significant escalation in trade tensions between the two nations.

### **United States imposes additional tariffs on Chinese imports and eliminates de minimis exemption**

On February 5, 2025, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a Federal Register Notice implementing a 10 percent tariff on Chinese imports under an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on February 1, 2025. The notice also eliminates the de minimis exemption under 19 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(2)(C), meaning Chinese imports valued under \$800 will no longer qualify for duty-free entry. A CBP Cargo Systems Messaging Service (CSMS) notice clarifies that effective February 4, 2025, shipments attempting to claim de minimis clearance will be rejected, requiring importers to file a formal or informal entry and pay all applicable duties. Another CSMS notice confirms that Chinese and Hong Kong-origin goods entered for consumption or withdrawn from warehouses after February 4, 2025, will be subject to additional duties under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and will not be eligible for duty drawback.

## **Trademark**

### **China National Intellectual Property Administration clarifies principles of comprehensive review in trademark administrative litigation**

In a recent trademark cancellation proceeding, the China National Intellectual Property Administration ruled in favor of the petitioner, citing violations under Article 44 of the China Trademark Law regarding improper registration. However, the petitioner, despite prevailing, filed an administrative appeal challenging the agency's failure to recognize a violation under Article 19, which prohibits trademark agencies from applying for registrations beyond their

services. The case highlights the importance of comprehensive judicial review in administrative litigation and the necessity for prevailing parties to appeal decisions that contain legal misinterpretations, even if they have secured a favorable outcome.

## **Patent**

### **Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Limited files patent infringement lawsuit against China Aviation Lithium Battery Company Limited and Xpeng Motors**

On January 24, 2025, the Intermediate People's Court of Quanzhou City in Fujian Province heard a case in which Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Limited (CATL) sued China Aviation Lithium Battery Company Limited (CALB) and Xpeng Motors for infringement of utility model patent rights. CATL has previously filed multiple lawsuits against CALB, seeking damages exceeding 100 million yuan. CALB has denied any infringement and has requested invalidation of the disputed patent. The ongoing legal battle highlights intensifying competition in China's lithium battery industry amid price wars in the new energy vehicle sector.

## **JAPAN**

## **Patent**

### **Japan Patent Office to expedite design application processing for startups**

Starting in April 2025, the Japan Patent Office (JPO) will extend its accelerated examination system for design rights to eligible startup companies. This initiative will reduce the average processing time from six months to approximately two months. Previously, only urgent cases, such as counterfeiting disputes or disaster recovery-related applications, qualified for expedited processing. Under the new policy, startups less than 10 years old with no more than 20 employees, as well as sole proprietorships of the same age, can apply. The decision follows a JPO survey that found 85.3% of venture capital firms consider intellectual property ownership crucial when making investment decisions.

## **KAZAKHSTAN**

## **Banking**

### **High Court rules on jurisdictional challenges in Alimov v Mirakhmedov Bitcoin dispute**

On December 20, 2024, the High Court of England and Wales ruled on jurisdictional challenges in the case of *Yermek Alimov v Abdumalik Mirakhmedov, Rashit Makhat, Andrey Kim, and Genesis Digital Assets Limited* [2024] EWHC 3322 (Comm). The case involved a dispute between Kazakh businessman Yermek Alimov and three Kazakh bitcoin miners, along with a Cyprus-based company, Genesis Digital Assets Limited. The court examined whether it had jurisdiction over the case, given that the parties resided in the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and Kazakhstan. The ruling addresses key legal questions on cross-border cryptocurrency disputes and jurisdictional authority.

# SINGAPORE

## Copyright

### **Singapore convicts first seller under copyright act for illegal streaming devices**

In a landmark case, Singapore has secured its first conviction under the amended Copyright Act, sentencing a seller at Sim Lim Square to 10 months in jail and imposing a \$300,000 fine on each of his companies, MT Gadget+ and Grandnew. The case marks the first successful prosecution under Section 150 of the Copyright Act 2021, which criminalizes the sale of piracy-enabling devices. The Premier League, which has been actively involved in anti-piracy enforcement in the region, welcomed the ruling. The conviction follows years of efforts to curb illegal streaming device sales in Singapore, reinforcing the country's commitment to intellectual property protection.

## White Collar Crime

### **Monetary authority of Singapore publishes response on anti-money laundering requirements for market operators**

On January 13, 2025, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) released its response to industry feedback on proposed anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT) regulations for market operators. The response follows a consultation paper issued on March 28, 2024, which proposed mandatory AML/CFT checks for non-financial institution participants. The new notice aims to enhance regulatory oversight as more market operators allow direct investor participation. MAS clarified key implementation points, signaling increased scrutiny on financial transactions within Singapore's organized markets.

## **INDONESIA & SINGAPORE**

## Patent

### **Singapore and Indonesia launch collaborative patent search and examination program**

On January 2, 2025, Singapore and Indonesia signed an agreement to launch the Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) program, aiming to expedite patent application processing in both countries. The Directorate General of Intellectual Property of Indonesia and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore will prioritize examinations, reducing the time required for substantive review. The program allows up to 20 claims per application, including a maximum of three independent claims, and is subject to monthly and annual quotas. While Singapore has established the necessary infrastructure for participation, Indonesia is still developing essential system features. The pilot program will operate until January 1, 2027, and aims to enhance patent protection for inventors in both jurisdictions.

## SOUTH KOREA

### Patent

#### **Intellectual Property High Court issues landmark ruling on enhanced damages for willful patent infringement**

The Intellectual Property High Court of South Korea has issued its first ruling on enhanced damages for willful patent infringement in *Busan District Court Case No. 2023Na11276*, decided on October 31, 2024. The case addressed the application of Articles 128(8) and 128(9) of the Korean Patent Act, which allow courts to award treble damages for willful infringement. A 2024 amendment further increased the potential damages to five times the actual amount. The ruling clarifies how courts will interpret the phrase “first committed” under the law, particularly for ongoing patent violations that began before the legal amendments took effect. The decision is now final after the defendant waived its right to appeal.

## THAILAND

### IT & Data Protection

#### **Thailand introduces draft of Digital Platform Economy Act to expand regulation of online services**

The rapid growth of digital platforms in Thailand, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has prompted the government to introduce new regulations. The Ministry of Digital Economy and Society has proposed the Draft Digital Platform Economy Act to expand the scope of the existing Royal Decree on the Operation of Digital Platform Service Business Subject to Prior Notification B.E. 2565 (2022). This new legislation aims to regulate a wider range of digital platform services, including digital media, ensuring fair trade practices, promoting self-regulation, and supporting good governance among platform operators. The bill seeks to enhance economic and social stability while addressing emerging risks in the digital economy.

## USA

### Capital Market

#### **Securities and Exchange Commission rescinds guidance on safeguarding crypto assets**

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 122, revoking previous guidance on how companies should account for obligations to safeguard cryptocurrency assets. The rescission means entities must now determine liability for safeguarding risks based on United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or International Financial Reporting Standards. The change, effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024, requires companies to disclose the effects of this accounting shift. However, this does not impact the accounting treatment for crypto assets under ASC 350-60, which continues to govern how entities report intangible assets.

## **Financial Crimes Enforcement Network enforces anti-money laundering regulations in cannabis industry**

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network continues to enforce strict anti-money laundering compliance for financial institutions dealing with marijuana-related businesses. Despite the rescission of the Cole Memo, the 2014 Marijuana Bank Secrecy Act Guidance remains in effect, requiring due diligence and suspicious activity reporting. Recent enforcement actions highlight the ongoing risks financial institutions face when engaging with cannabis-related businesses. Firms must ensure robust compliance to mitigate legal and financial exposure in this evolving regulatory landscape.

## **Defense & Trade Regulation**

### **Raytheon agrees to \$950 million settlement over false claims act and export violations**

Raytheon Company, a division of RTX, has reached a \$950 million settlement with the Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission over multiple violations, including false pricing in defense contracts, violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and breaches of export control laws. The company admitted to inflating costs on military contracts, leading to a windfall of \$111 million. The False Claims Act allegations resulted in a \$428 million settlement, including a whistleblower lawsuit that awarded \$4.2 million to the plaintiff. This settlement is one of the largest in recent years and underscores heightened scrutiny on defense contractors.

## **Company & Commercial**

### **American airlines found to have breached fiduciary duty in retirement plan investments**

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas ruled that American Airlines breached its duty of loyalty under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act by allowing environmental, social, and governance considerations to influence its retirement plan investments. However, the court found that the company met the duty of prudence, as its investment oversight processes were in line with industry standards. The court deferred ruling on potential damages, pending further financial review. This decision reinforces that fiduciaries must prioritize financial returns over social objectives in employee retirement plans.

### **Delaware Supreme Court rules business judgment rule protects corporate redomestication**

The Delaware Supreme Court, in *Palkon v. Maffei*, ruled that the business judgment rule protects corporate redomestications when conducted on a "clear day," meaning there are no pending claims that would provide undue benefits to fiduciaries. The case involved TripAdvisor's decision to move its incorporation from Delaware to Nevada, which stockholders challenged, arguing it unfairly benefited controlling stakeholders. The ruling overturns a lower court decision that applied stricter scrutiny and confirms that corporate relocations are permissible under business judgment standards, provided they are not influenced by ongoing litigation.

## **Competition & Antitrust**

### **Department of Justice sues to block Hewlett Packard enterprise and juniper networks merger**

The Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit to block Hewlett Packard Enterprise's proposed \$14 billion acquisition of Juniper Networks, arguing that the deal would significantly reduce competition in the wireless local area network market. The lawsuit, filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, claims that the merger would lead to a highly concentrated market, reducing competition and innovation while increasing prices. The case marks the first major antitrust enforcement action under the Trump administration, signaling a continued focus on aggressive competition oversight.

## **Intellectual Property**

### **United States Copyright Office clarifies that artificial intelligence-generated works may qualify for copyright protection**

The United States Copyright Office has released a report stating that copyright protection may be available for works created using artificial intelligence, provided there is significant human involvement. The report clarifies that purely AI-generated content without meaningful human input will not be protected, as prompts alone do not constitute sufficient creative control. However, works in which a human author selects, arranges, or modifies AI-generated material may qualify for copyright. The report also suggests that if human creativity is perceptible in AI-generated works, copyright protection could apply. This decision could have significant implications for Australian copyright law and intellectual property rights.



**Trending  
in News**

## Madras High Court Takes Strong Stand Against Use of 'Gender Identity Disorder' in Medical Curriculum



In a recent order dated 3.02.2025 (*MANU/TN/0531/2025; W.P.No.7284 of 2021*) the Madras High Court has raised strong objections to the continued use of the term "Gender Identity Disorder" in medical regulations and educational curriculum, emphasizing that such terminology reinforces outdated and prejudicial notions about LGBTQIA+ individuals.

### **Court's Observations on Gender Identity and Medical Curriculum**

Justice Anand Venkatesh, presiding over the matter, noted that the phrase "Gender Identity Disorder" inherently implies that individuals identifying as transgender or part of the LGBTQIA+ spectrum are suffering from a medical condition that requires correction. This, he remarked, is a deeply flawed perception and does not align with contemporary scientific understanding. The Court underscored that diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are natural variations of human existence and not pathological conditions.

The Court went further to criticize the National Medical Commission (NMC) for failing to update its regulations to reflect this understanding. It observed that medical institutions, which are expected to operate based on scientific evidence, must not perpetuate stigmatizing language that portrays LGBTQIA+ identities as abnormalities.

Another key issue addressed during the hearing was the classification of conversion therapy as professional misconduct. Justice Venkatesh expressed dissatisfaction with the NMC's delay in notifying its revised regulations from 2023, which would formally categorize conversion therapy as unethical and impermissible.



Given the regulatory vacuum, the Court suggested that immediate steps be taken to amend the existing 2002 regulations to explicitly include conversion therapy as professional misconduct. This measure, the Court reasoned, would ensure that medical professionals engaging in such practices are held accountable even before the new regulations come into force.

## **Questioning the State's Approach to LGBTQIA+ Welfare Policies**

The case before the Court originally stemmed from a 2021 petition filed by a lesbian couple seeking protection from their families, who opposed their relationship. Over time, the matter evolved into a broader examination of LGBTQIA+ rights and welfare, leading to several judicial directives aimed at securing legal recognition and protection for the community.

During the most recent hearing, the State Government informed the Court of its intention to introduce two distinct policies—one catering to transgender and intersex persons and another addressing the broader LGBTQIA+ community. Justice Venkatesh questioned the rationale behind such differentiation, asking the State to provide a written explanation on the necessity of maintaining two separate frameworks instead of a unified policy. The Court emphasized that the welfare of LGBTQIA+ persons should be approached holistically rather than through fragmented policies, which may lead to unnecessary complications in implementation.

Furthermore, the State was directed to place the draft policies before the Court so that all stakeholders could provide their inputs. The Court noted that a well-drafted and inclusive policy would be more resilient against potential legal challenges and would better serve the interests of the community.

## **Judicial Commitment to LGBTQIA+ Rights**

Justice Venkatesh, known for his proactive stance on LGBTQIA+ rights, reaffirmed his commitment to seeing tangible progress in this case. He acknowledged the difficulty in effectuating societal change but expressed hope that persistent judicial intervention, coupled with contributions from experts and activists, would gradually dismantle prejudices against the LGBTQIA+ community.

"I will not get tired, I may get frustrated. I may lament, but that means I am building up energy inside. This is something I find potential for change. Bringing changes of this nature is very difficult. But look at the number of persons helping—that is our strength," the judge remarked.

The matter is scheduled for its next hearing on February 17, where further discussions on the draft policies and regulatory amendments are expected to take place. The Court's intervention in this case continues to play an important role in reshaping legal and institutional frameworks concerning LGBTQIA+ rights in India.