

THE CASE FOR IMPROVED CAUSELISTS

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About **DAKSH**: **DAKSH** is a Bengaluru-based civil society organisation working on judicial reforms and access to justice. We are focused on solving the problem of pendency of cases in the Indian legal system. We approach the problem from the perspectives of data, efficiency, process, technology and administration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"The Case for Improved Causelists" is a working paper that delves into the essential role of causelists in the Indian legal system, examines the challenges faced by stakeholders in the system with regard to the management and design of causelists, and underlines the critical requirement for causelists to be easily accessible and user-friendly. The paper seeks to spark conversations around often neglected issues within the legal system, such as the necessity for predictability in court hearing schedules, the need to challenge existing perceptions. It proposes practical solutions aimed at improving transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity in legal proceedings.

Through an analysis of the current state of High Court and Supreme Court causelists in Indian courts, as well as consultations with relevant stakeholders including lawyers, litigants, and judges, the paper identifies significant challenges stemming from the content and dissemination methods of causelists. It puts forth solutions to enhance the accessibility and comprehensiveness of causelists, focusing on their design, structure, and components rather than broader policy decisions like case allocation methods or listing policies, which will be explored in future research endeavours. (Chapter 1: Issues Faced by Stakeholders and Possible Solutions).

The paper advocates for proactive measures to tackle the obstacles faced by various stakeholders in the legal system and for redesigning causelists to be more inclusive and accessible for all individuals involved in legal processes. By examining best practices adopted by courts in India (Chapter 2: Best Practices Followed in Indian Courts) and other countries (Chapter 3: Best Practices Followed in International Courts) to improve the accessibility and usability of causelists, the paper outlines the key elements of a model causelist. (Chapter 4: Components of a Model Causelist).

Moreover, it delves into the factors that must be taken into account when implementing these proposed changes, including policy decisions, standardisation of terminology, complexities of individual cases, scheduling difficulties, and the absence of comprehensive listing rules. It calls for clear and transparent guidelines regarding court practices related to causelists and stresses the significance of comprehensive listing rules in enhancing comprehension and transparency in court procedures. (Chapter 5: Key Considerations for Implementing Model Causelist Suggestions)

As part of the working paper, an interactive prototype of a model causelist webpage that incorporates suggestions made in the paper has also been developed which is available on the DAKSH website.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Introduction

1 - 4

Chapter

1

Issues Faced by Stakeholders
and Potential Solutions

5 - 28



29 - 40

Chapter

2

Best Practices Followed
in Indian Courts

Chapter

3

Best Practices Followed in
International Courts

41 - 49



50 - 59

Chapter

4

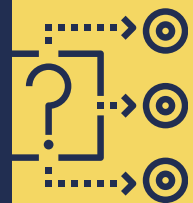
Components of a Model
Causelist

Chapter

5

Key Considerations for
Implementing Model Causelist
Suggestions

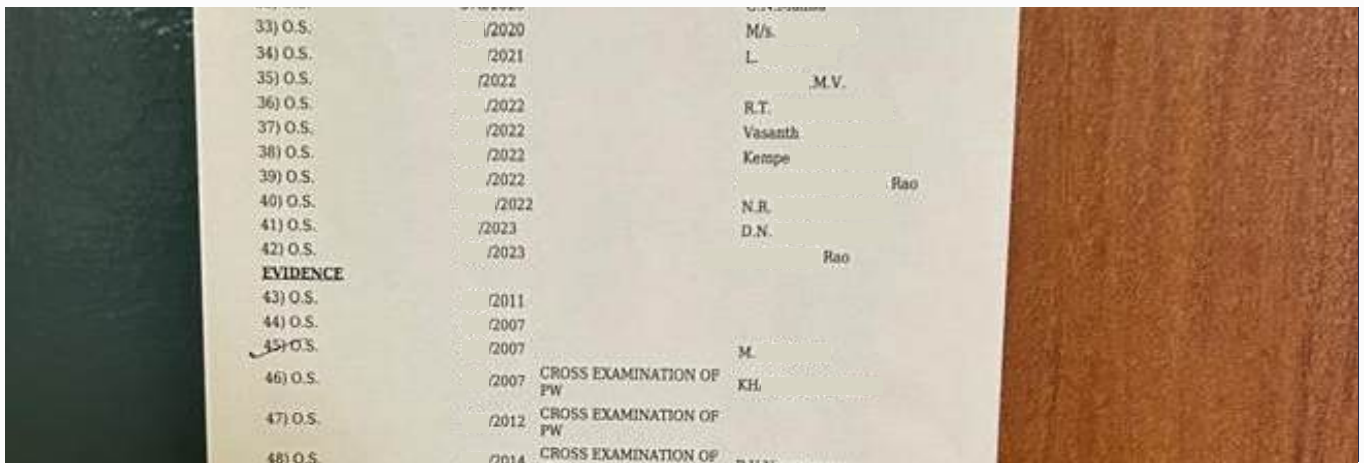
60 - 64



INTRODUCTION:

WHAT IS A CAUSELIST?

A common sight in any court is that of bundles of paper stuck on notice boards outside courtrooms being pored over by lawyers. These bundles of paper are known as causelists. A causelist is a comprehensive schedule of court hearings listing cases in chronological order for a particular day. Causelists are used in courts across the world to provide judges, lawyers, journalists, legal researchers and litigants essential details about court proceedings, such as details of listed cases for a day or over a week, court appearance times and the names of presiding judges. They are usually disseminated through the websites of respective courts and also made available as hard copies outside courts. Causelists are a crucial and interactive information source for legal stakeholders and play a vital role in determining court access for people, both physically and virtually.



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35) O.S.	/2022		M.V.
36) O.S.	/2022	R.T.	
37) O.S.	/2022	Vasanth	
38) O.S.	/2022	Kenpe	
39) O.S.	/2022		Rao
40) O.S.	/2022	N.R.	
41) O.S.	/2023	D.N.	
42) O.S.	/2023		Rao
EVIDENCE			
43) O.S.	/2011		
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THE CURRENT STATE OF CAUSELISTS

At present, causelists across various courts in India are plagued by the following issues that significantly undermine their effectiveness and utility.

Complex and inaccessible causelists:

The inherent complexity and lack of user-friendly design of many causelists render them challenging to navigate, particularly for individuals with varying levels of familiarity with legal processes. This lack of accessibility presents a significant barrier to participation and engagement in the judicial system for diverse stakeholders, including litigants, lawyers, and the general public.



Delayed publication of causelists and uncertainty in hearings:

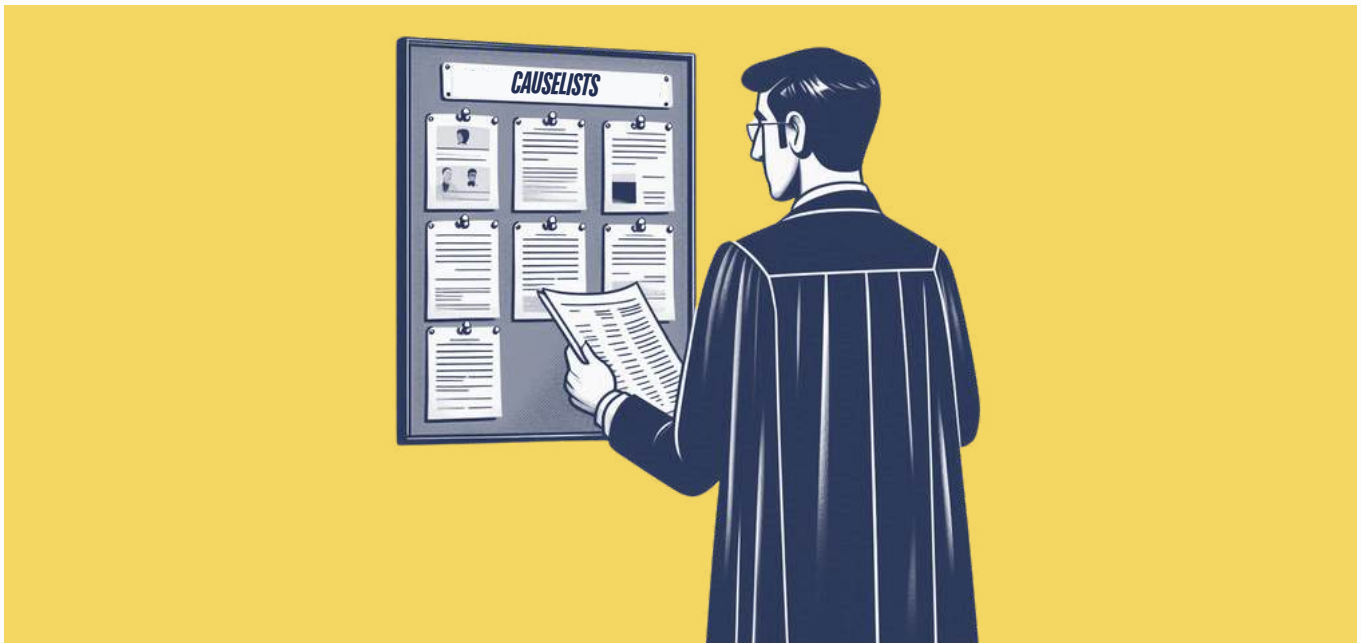
Delayed publication and uncertainty surrounding case hearings contribute to the proliferation of adjournments and rescheduling of hearings, exacerbating the backlog of cases in our courts. Such inefficiencies undermine the smooth functioning of the legal system and erode public trust and confidence in the judiciary's ability to deliver timely and effective justice.



WHY ARE EFFICIENTLY MANAGED AND DESIGNED CAUSELISTS ESSENTIAL?

Meaningful access to justice implies that litigants and the public can effectively engage with the legal system. The differing practices and procedures of various courts make this engagement challenging. With more standardised procedures, navigating the legal landscape can become easier. Given that each High Court operates independently and the Supreme Court has its own unique procedures, there are inherent limitations to standardisation. However, it is still crucial to make court practices and procedures as simple and transparent as possible.

One key area for improvement is the causelist, which should be designed with litigants in mind. When people cannot easily understand the purpose and timing of hearings, the most basic aspects of a court hearing, they are discouraged from participating in the legal process. Courts permit individuals to represent themselves instead of hiring lawyers. Imagine the inaccessibility faced by a self-represented litigant trying to navigate court processes without mediation by a lawyer. If even experienced lawyers struggle to predict when a case might be heard, how can a layperson be expected to represent themselves effectively? It is the duty of the courts, including judges and court staff, to bring the ideal of open justice to life by encouraging participation from all relevant stakeholders¹. They must proactively ensure that the information on causelists and court websites is as clear as possible, thereby ensuring meaningful access to justice.



The Indian judicial system faces persistent delays in case listings and disposals, often due to frequent adjournments and ineffective hearings. Among other reasons, these issues also arise from inadequate preparation time, personal circumstances of litigants making physical presence in courts difficult, or lastminute listings that prevent necessary arrangements. A well-managed causelist, tailored to the court's workload, released in advance and with enough information about the details of hearings, can mitigate these problems, reducing unnecessary adjournments, enhancing judicial efficiency and conserving judicial resources.

¹Justice Committee. 2022. Open justice: court reporting in the digital age. United Kingdom. House of Commons; available at <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31426/documents/176229/default/> (accessed on 25 May 2024); Ursula Gorham. 2014. 'Facilitating Access to Legal Information by Self- Represented Litigants: An Exploratory Case Study of the People's Law Library of Maryland', *Journal of Open Access to Law*, Vol. 2 No. 1 (2014).

THE DESIGN OF CAUSELISTS

Causelists are critical for providing information on court proceedings to stakeholders. Their design impacts usability, making it essential that causelists are accessible, intuitive, and user-friendly.



Fostering Transparency, Efficiency, and Inclusivity:

Improving causelists is essential for enhancing transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity in the Indian judicial system. Timely, accessible, and user-friendly causelists can improve justice administration, strengthen public trust, and ensure fair, speedy dispute resolution.

Saving Time with Accessibility:

Accessible court websites and causelists save users time by providing quick access to relevant information. This reduces the time spent searching through complex systems and allows individuals to manage their time more effectively.







Promoting Inclusive Digital Access:

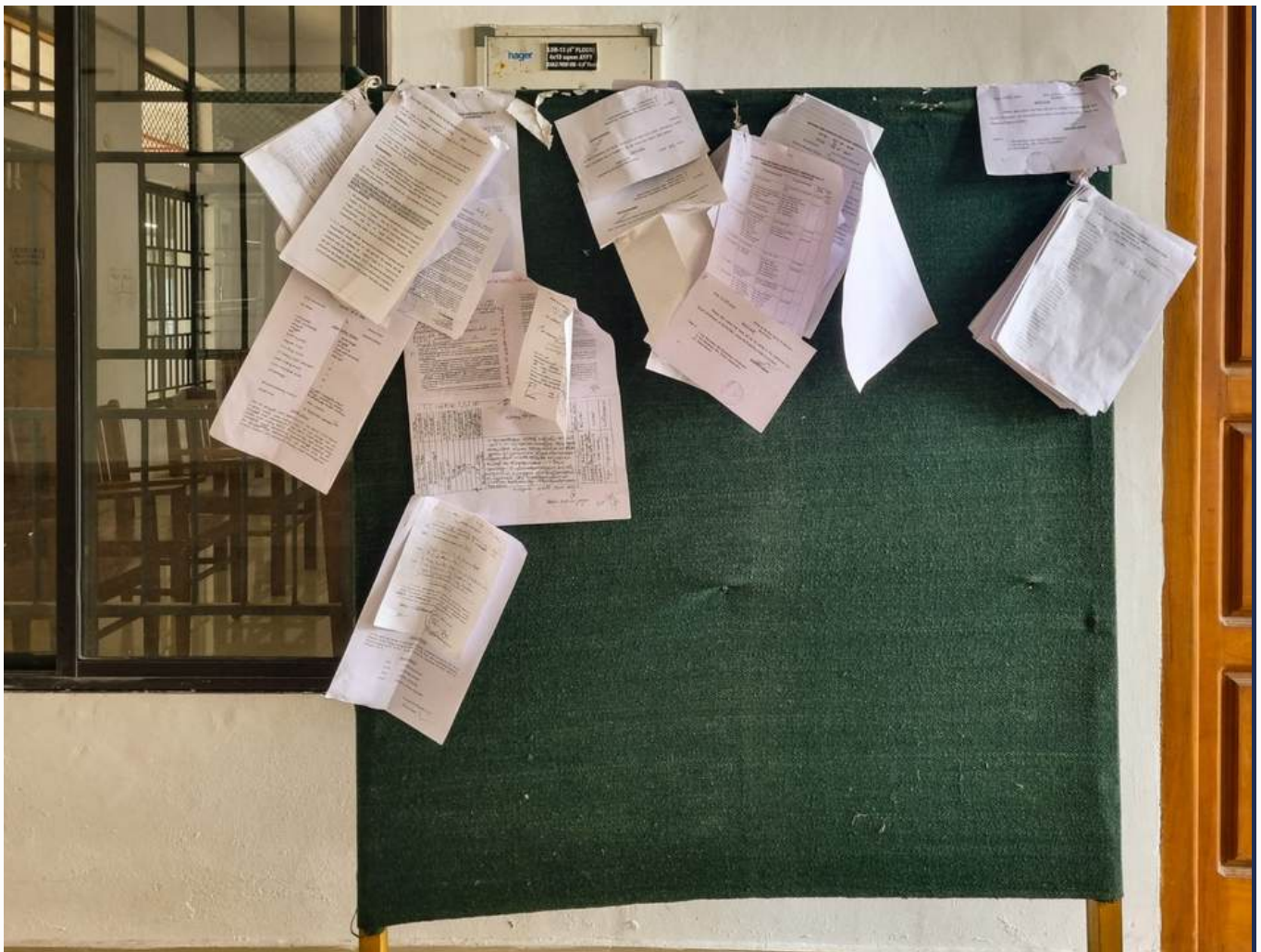
Features like clear navigation, searchable content, and intuitive design create a more inclusive digital experience, accommodating all users regardless of their abilities or technological proficiency.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Using insights from an analysis of causelists from all High Courts in India, the Supreme Court, courts in other countries, as well as stakeholder interviews and surveys, this paper envisions a model causelist with components adaptable to different courts, depending on their nature of functioning. It suggests the necessary elements for such a causelist and related content for court websites, including display boards. It is important to note that this paper does not address issues specific to district courts or tribunals, as they face different challenges that require separate consideration.

This paper:

-  Identifies challenges faced by stakeholders due to current causelist designs and their impact on access to justice and puts forward possible solutions to mitigate them.
-  Examines best practices from courts in India and other countries to enhance causelist accessibility and comprehensiveness.
-  Outlines key components of a model causelist to address identified challenges.
-  Discusses factors to be considered for implementation of the suggestions.



Challenges such as the certainty of hearing, delayed notice of hearing, and difficulty in accessing legal proceedings are often perceived as pervasive and difficult to overcome within the legal system. Due to the judiciary's frequent focus on addressing larger systemic issues, these common concerns may not receive immediate priority. This paper aims to challenge this perception by initiating a discourse on these overlooked issues. By highlighting the significant impact these challenges have on individuals' daily lives, it seeks to inspire action and propose meaningful solutions. The goal is to bring these issues to the forefront of the conversation on judicial reforms and advocate for proactive measures to address them effectively.

Considering the foundational role of cauelists in ensuring access to justice, the Supreme Court has announced an official WhatsApp channel for updating lawyers on cauelists. The Karnataka High Court had introduced a Telegram channel for the same purpose in 2021. While these are positive developments, courts can make even greater strides towards open justice by redesigning cauelists to be more inclusive and accessible to all stakeholders, regardless of their background or privilege. Efforts must also be made to address the challenges faced by stakeholders, such as lawyers and litigants, who regularly engage with the legal system so as to enhance transparency and accessibility within the legal system.

²The Economic Times. 2024. 'SC will share cause lists, info about filing and listing of cases through WhatsApp: CJI'. 25 April.

³The Hindu. 2021. 'High Court launches Telegram channels for Karnataka judiciary'. July 9.

⁴Available at <https://t.me/s/karnatakahighcourt>

CHAPTER 1

Issues Faced by Stakeholders and Potential Solutions



1 Delayed and Unclear Causelist Publication

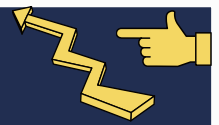
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Lack of Certainty in Court Hearings



3

Lack of Indication of the Case Purpose/Stage



5

Inaccessibility of Case Details in Singular Location



4

Variability in Court Cause Lists and Chronology of Hearings



7

Lack of Comprehensive Listing of Names of All Parties and Lawyers



6

Lack of Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

8

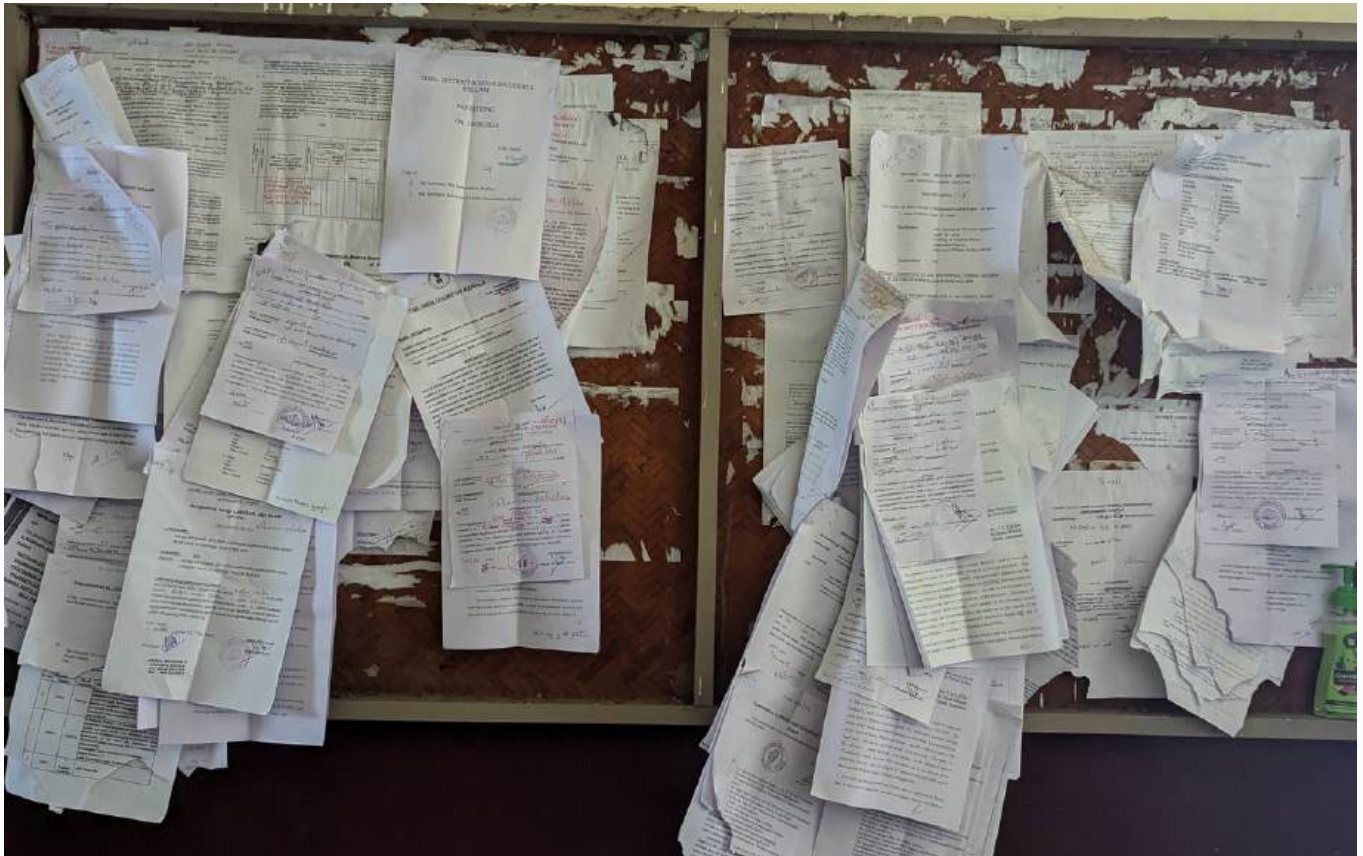
Unavailability of Causelists for Technological Solutions



Causelists significantly impact various stakeholders, including lawyers, clerks, litigants, judges, journalists, researchers, and the public. Each group interacts uniquely with causelists based on their roles, whether it is judges managing their caseloads, lawyers preparing for cases, litigants tracking their proceedings or researchers/journalists following a case. Tailored solutions that account for diverse experiences are required because of this. For example, delayed or unclear causelists affect a young lawyer without support differently than a seasoned lawyer with ample resources. Similarly, uncertainty around case timings impacts senior advocates, briefing counsels, and parties with government jobs in distinct ways compared to those with flexible routines. Acknowledging these differences allows for more effective strategies to enhance the accessibility and usefulness of causelists. This section explores these issues and their impacts on stakeholders.

ISSUE 1:

DELAYED AND UNCLEAR CAUSELIST PUBLICATION

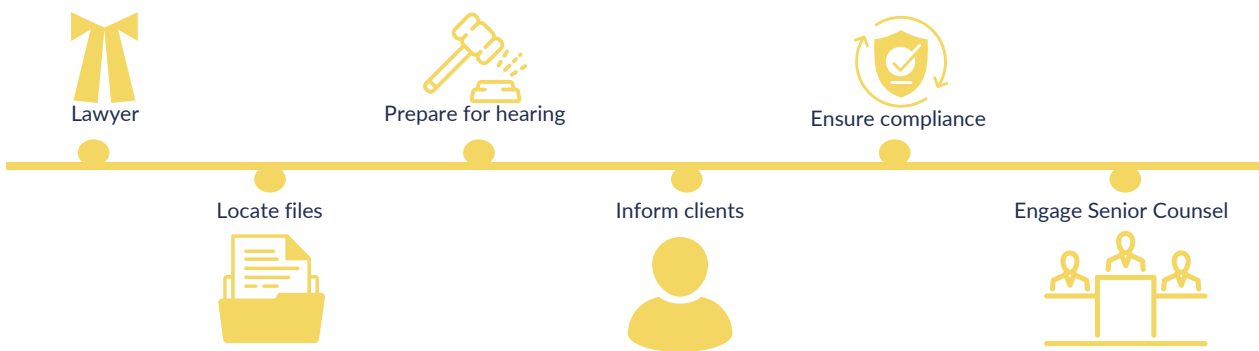


Challenges due to delayed and unclear causelist publication

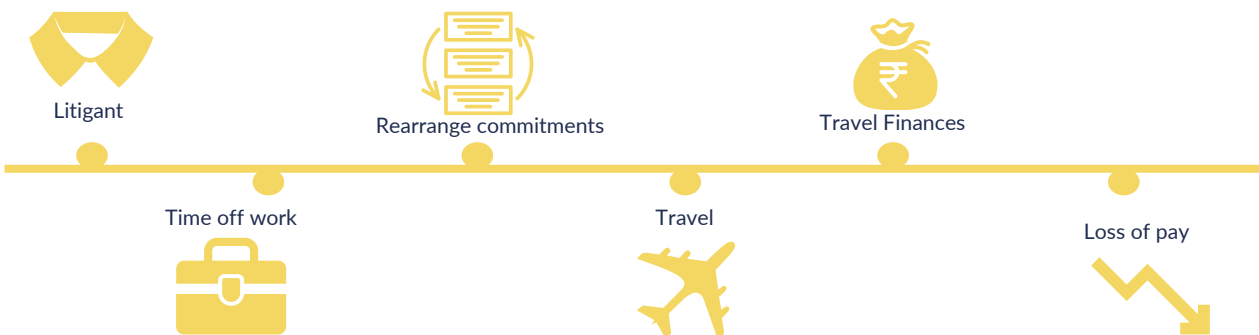
A fundamental concern for all stakeholders is the delayed publication of causelists, which are usually disseminated through the websites of individual courts. The publication schedules of various courts differ significantly. The main causelists are typically published a day before the hearing between 6 to 9:30 pm, with supplementary lists released later unpredictably. Some courts issue these supplementary lists or notices as late as 10:30 am or 12 am the previous day or on the hearing day. This makes it difficult for lawyers who do not live in the same city as a High Court or Supreme Court to practice there. Lawyers from district courts far from the High Court in Karnataka or Chhattisgarh who have appeals in the High Court mentioned that they are forced to hand over cases to High Court lawyers because they can not reach the court on time when cause lists are released only a day in advance or the day of the hearing. This increases costs for clients. Only a few courts release the main list a few days in advance, and supplementary lists the day before. For cases to be listed on a Monday, lists are generally released on Friday or Saturday evenings. It is to be noted that these practices are not standardised. They are very judge-centric as well as being attributable to the Chief Justice of that particular court. Judges of individual courts will have their own preferences about the different lists they may release and policies related to causelists (affecting time of release, manner of publication, etc.) and these usually also change with every new Chief Justice.

Experiences can differ among lawyers based on years of practice and access to resources. Younger lawyers, especially those without clerical assistance or those working with senior lawyers, often wait late into the night for the list to be published after which they have to organise files and prepare for hearings.

Understanding the myriad tasks that different stakeholders need to perform upon causelist publication is crucial. After a matter is listed, lawyers must locate files(especially challenging for older cases), prepare for hearing, inform clients, ensure compliance with court orders, receive instructions, and potentially engage senior counsel. They need more notice to complete these tasks.



Litigants who wish or are required to attend court hearings must make arrangements such as taking time off work, rearranging commitments, or travelling from out of town, incurring financial and other consequences.⁵ Many of these issues can be mitigated with sufficiently advanced publication of the lists. Due to the inaccessibility of our legal system, litigants are often not involved as much as they should be in their cases.

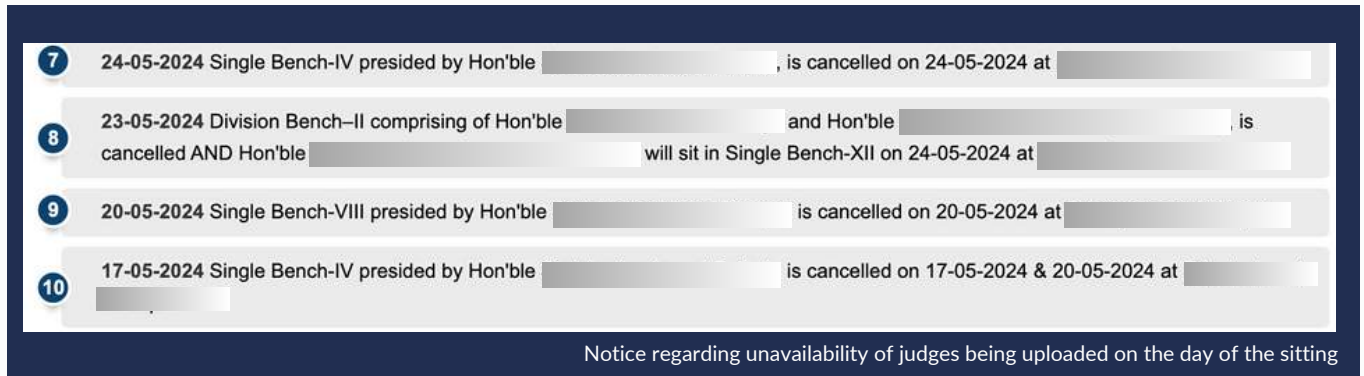


⁵ DAKSH. 2016. Access To Justice Survey 2015-16, p. 17. Available Online at <https://dakshindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Daksh-access-to-justice-survey.pdf> (Accessed on 28 March 2024). As per the survey findings in 2016, the loss of productivity owing to wages and business lost from attending court hearings amounts to 0.48% of the Indian GDP



Missed court instructions due to delayed updates

Delayed publication, coupled with non-centralised and unclear updates, can lead to crucial court instructions being missed. A Supreme Court lawyer noted that although the court does not issue additional supplementary lists, an already published list may be updated with a new timestamp. This requires lawyers to constantly check for updates, which could lead to them missing critical information. A Supreme Court lawyer noted that at times the court instead of issuing additional supplementary lists, may update an already published list with a new timestamp.



Missed hearings due to delayed and unclear publication:

One lawyer shared an incident where he missed a crucial hearing due to a last-minute change in the causelist. The causelist released the previous day indicated that his case was scheduled in Court X for the day, and despite waiting for hours, he missed the entire proceeding as his case had been moved to Court Y as per a supplementary note released at 10:30am on the day of the hearing. This oversight had significant consequences for his client.



Urgent travel and preparation challenges:

Another lawyer recounted that an important matter was listed without notice in Madras High Court while she was in Delhi for a Supreme Court hearing. She had to book last-minute flight tickets, arrange other lawyers for the Supreme Court matter, and travel back overnight. The senior lawyer in the matter was not available for a meeting due to other commitments, resulting in a constrained five-minute briefing outside court before the hearing.



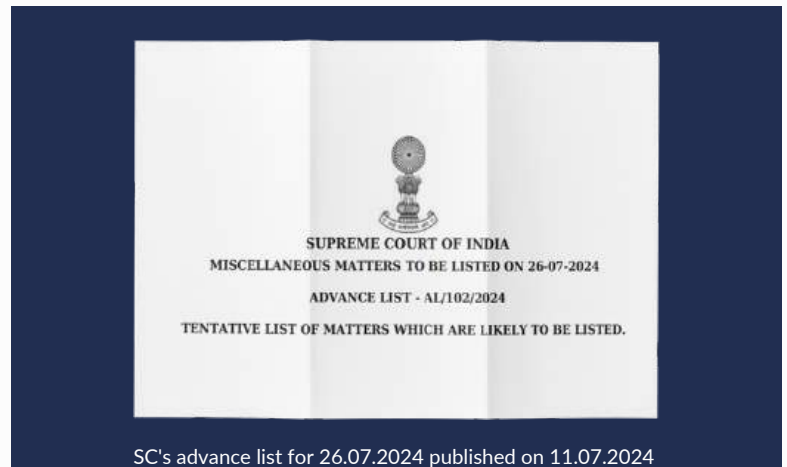
A government official recounted a case in which he was directed by the court to appear on a particular day. The government pleader informed him at 7 PM the previous evening that the case was not listed for the next day in the causelists released, allowing the official to schedule work and meetings with the public. However, at 10 PM, the government pleader advised him that although the case had not yet been listed, it would be prudent to take the overnight train to the High Court on the off chance that it might be. Consequently, around midnight, he had to cancel his plans and make the urgent journey. The matter was eventually listed for hearing at 2:15 PM in a causelist released at 11:30 AM.



Established solutions for delayed and unclear causelist publication

Ensuring causelists are released well in advance is immensely beneficial for all stakeholders and the courts. Some courts have established practices to disseminate information with extended lead times. For example:

- The Supreme Court's "advance list", which contains possible cases that could be listed on a day, is released up to two weeks before the scheduled hearing date based on which a final list, containing the final order in most of those matters are heard, is released up to two days before. Some High Courts publish their main hearing list for a specific day between a few days⁶ to a week⁷ in advance⁸.
- Some⁹ High Courts publish a weekly/warning/warned list before the start of the week, mentioning cases¹⁰ which may be listed through the week.



While it is not guaranteed that all matters in the advance or weekly list will be heard during the week, it does signal the possibility of a hearing, which is particularly beneficial for older cases. It allows for lawyers to prepare files, inform clients in advance, prepare for the case, plan travel, engage and brief senior lawyers, if required. It also allows for litigants to make arrangements to be present in court.

Releasing causelists well in advance is feasible, as has been shown by some courts. As most cases scheduled for a day are not dependent on hearings on the previous day, hearings can be scheduled through effective case management by the court registry and a uniform policy of assigning a next date of hearing to all cases. For cases carried over to the next day, those specifically listed by a judge, fresh filings through the week or cases requested to be taken out of turn due to some urgency, a supplementary list could be issued the day before the hearing sufficiently early (around 4 pm).

⁶ Rajasthan HC, Chhattisgarh HC

⁷ Bombay HC

⁸ All these courts have other lists as well which will contain matters for hearing for a day released the day before the hearing but the main lists will contain the majority of cases

⁹ Andhra Pradesh HC, Bombay HC, Bombay HC at Goa, Chhattisgarh HC, Gujarat HC, Karnataka HC, Kerala HC (some judges), Madras HC (as part of the main list called draft list, usually repeated), Odisha HC

¹⁰ Usually in the case of final hearing cases which will need more time for preparation, could also include matters which were scheduled to be heard on a particular day from the previous week but could not be (not reached matters)

ISSUE 2: LACK OF CERTAINTY IN COURT HEARINGS



Certainty in court hearings can be viewed from two perspectives:

- Whether a case expected to be listed on a specific day will appear in the causelist.
- Whether a case listed in the causelist will actually be heard on that day and approximately at what time.

The first aspect involves broader court listing policies beyond this paper's scope. Instead, this paper focuses on the certainty of the hearing schedule, to a limited extent without delving into questions such as how many cases must be listed on a day for effective adjudication. Certainty of hearings significantly affects stakeholders' ability to plan and prepare effectively.¹¹ Issues of late publication and lack of certainty of when a case might be heard even when listed often prompt lawyers to seek more adjournments because they are ill-prepared, lack client instructions, or have scheduling conflicts. People involved in litigation¹² are significantly affected in many areas of their lives—financially, health-wise and and mentally. These impacts are further exacerbated by the uncertainty surrounding court hearings.

Challenges in estimating hearing times and associated inefficiencies

Estimating case hearing times:

Presently, lawyers typically determine the timing of their case hearings by going through the causelists and approximating the effective time at which their matter might be taken up. They would also have to approach the lawyers representing matters listed before theirs on the causelist. They inquire about whether the case might be heard, estimate the duration it may take, and then calculate an overall estimation of when the bench will proceed to their matter.

¹¹ xKDR. 2023. Pavithra Manivannan, Geetika Palta, Susan Thomas and Bhargavi Zaveri-Shah, *Evaluating courts from a litigant's perspective: A project report*. Available at https://papers.xkdr.org/papers/2023Manivannanetal_evaluatingCourtsFromLitigantPerspectiveReport.pdf (accessed on 20 February 2024)

¹² World Justice Project. 'Global Insights on Access to Justice 2019'. 2019, available at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/global-insights-access-justice-2019> (accessed on 24 May 2024). Canadian Forum on Civil Justice. 'Everyday legal problems and the Cost of Justice in Canada: Overview Report'. 2016, available at <https://www.cfcjfcj.org/sites/default/files/Everyday%20Legal%20Problems%20and%20the%20Cost%20of%20Justice%20in%20Canada%20-%20Overview%20Report.pdf> (accessed on 3 May 2024); Michaela Keet, Heather Heavin and Shawna Sparrow. 'Anticipating and Managing the Psychological Cost of Civil Litigation'. 2017. 34:2 Windsor YB Access Just 73.

The accuracy of predicting when a case will be heard is often contingent upon various factors, including the judge's inclination to hear the case and whether all necessary compliances have been met. Despite the best efforts of seasoned lawyers, there remains a significant possibility that a case may be heard either earlier or later than anticipated or not at all, disrupting the carefully planned schedules of the parties involved.

Time wasted waiting in court:

It is a widely acknowledged issue within legal circles that lawyers often find themselves waiting in court for extended periods without their cases being heard, averaging more than half the day. Sometimes they wait in court the whole day (around 6 hours) without their matters being heard. The repercussions extend beyond mere inconvenience. The repercussions extend beyond mere inconvenience. Lawyers, who are essential actors within the legal system, are unable to utilize their time effectively while awaiting their turn. The prolonged waiting periods contribute to a waste of resources, both in terms of the financial costs incurred by legal practitioners for their time spent idly in court and the broader societal costs associated with the inefficient allocation of judicial resources.

In a case in the Kerala High Court¹³ pertaining to cases listed in the causelist for a day, the submission of the Registrar General noted that the registry takes into account the time that could be taken for certain kinds of cases and lists only a limited number of the cases before the judges, taking into account the inconvenience caused to lawyers and litigants by being made to wait for unpredictable long hours.



Lawyers waiting in Kerala High Court

Challenges for female lawyers:

Female lawyers who often shoulder the responsibilities of childcare find their careers significantly impacted by the unpredictable and delayed publication of causelists, as well as the uncertainty over when a case will be taken up for hearing during the day. One lawyer at a litigation firm shared her experience of giving birth shortly before her expected promotion as partner of the firm. Following the birth of her child, she found it challenging to remain in the office late into the night, awaiting the release of the causelist and subsequently preparing for the listed cases. Additionally, staying in court for extended periods with little control over her schedule throughout the day due to uncertainty over when matters will be heard became unfeasible. As a result, she had to prioritise non-urgent and less critical legal tasks, which she

¹³ Yeshwanth Shenoy v. Chief Justice and Ors., WP(C) NO. 6912 OF 2023, order dated 09.06.2023

believes ultimately hindered her prospects of partnership within the firm. This confluence of factors underscores the detrimental impact of the lack of flexibility and certainty in scheduling on the career trajectories of female lawyers with caregiving responsibilities.

Another female lawyer, managing the care for both her children and elderly parents, lamented the adverse impact on her independent legal career caused by the absence of flexibility and certainty in case hearings. Despite having a supportive family that urged her to relocate to a house merely ten minutes away from the High Court to help her professional and personal responsibilities when she became a new mother, the challenges persisted. The significant increase in costs incurred for this move did not alleviate the difficulties she faced in efficiently managing court hearings and commuting to her home. The lack of flexibility and predictability in the legal proceedings contributed to the strain on her career, highlighting the systemic challenges women lawyers face in maintaining work-life balance and advancing their professional aspirations.



Impact on litigants travelling from outside the jurisdiction:

Litigants travelling from outside the jurisdiction may miss hearings if their cases are not heard as initially listed, leading to a financial strain. Clients who initially attended hearings might gradually stop doing so due to financial constraints, including outstation fees and travel expenses. Lawyers recounted instances where clients, misled by causelist publication, spent money on travel only to find their cases not listed. Clients booked tickets based on the next hearing date or seeing the matter listed in the advance list, only to find out the previous day that the matter is not listed. These uncertainties have not only taken a toll on the litigant's professional commitments but have also led to unwarranted financial strains and logistical challenges. Most importantly, it has led to the erosion of trust in the courts' processes.

Impact on litigants who are government employees:

Government employees attending hearings find their professional and financial lives disrupted due to uncertainty, with last-minute changes to meticulously planned leave and travel arrangements often going to waste. A litigant, who is a government employee, said that the uncertainty in court hearings has disrupted his life both professionally and financially. Despite meticulously planning, applying for leave, and making travel arrangements well in advance, he often faced frustrating situations. For one case, after travelling overnight to the High Court, he found his case was not heard as scheduled, forcing him to return without attending the hearing due to leave constraints. Sometimes after making travel arrangements he would learn at the last minute that his case was deleted from the list or the judge was unavailable.

Impact on Government and Police Personnel:

The uncertainty in hearing schedules significantly affects government officers, leading to prolonged waiting periods in court. Officials often attend voluntarily to provide necessary clarifications to lawyers or are asked to by their government departments, spending extended periods without their matters being heard, which wastes valuable time. Daily lists are typically released the evening before, forcing officers to hastily prepare by visiting lawyers' offices or travelling to court early the next morning. For those travelling from outside the city, overnight stays are common, disrupting their official tasks and scheduled public appointments. When officers must appear in person, there's a higher chance of their case being heard by day's end. However, if their presence is not required, their case may be delayed, resulting in a whole day or more spent without a hearing.

Police officers are particularly affected by the uncertainty and delayed release of causelists in High Courts, especially in cases under Section 482 of the CrPC for quashing FIRs, where their presence is essential for case updates. Many officers from distant districts must make sudden overnight journeys, using personal funds for travel and meals while waiting at court, often hoping for eventual reimbursement. Sometimes, lawyers compensate them for these expenses, acknowledging the difficulties they face.

Life-threatening implications in protection cases:

The absence of certainty in court hearings can sometimes be life-threatening. Lawyers described instances where clients seeking protection orders faced serious risks due to delays such as in the case of an inter-caste couple eloping and seeking court protection had to hide in a lawyer's car waiting for their case to be taken up for hearing to avoid their families. When their case was not heard that day, their safety was at greater risk as they had to wait another day.



Uncertainty in single and division bench sittings:

Uncertainty often arises when listings are divided between single and division¹⁴ bench sittings. One lawyer described a frustrating experience with a case scheduled before a judge sitting in both single and division¹⁴ benches. The causelist stipulated that the single judge's matters would

¹⁴A formation of two judges in a court

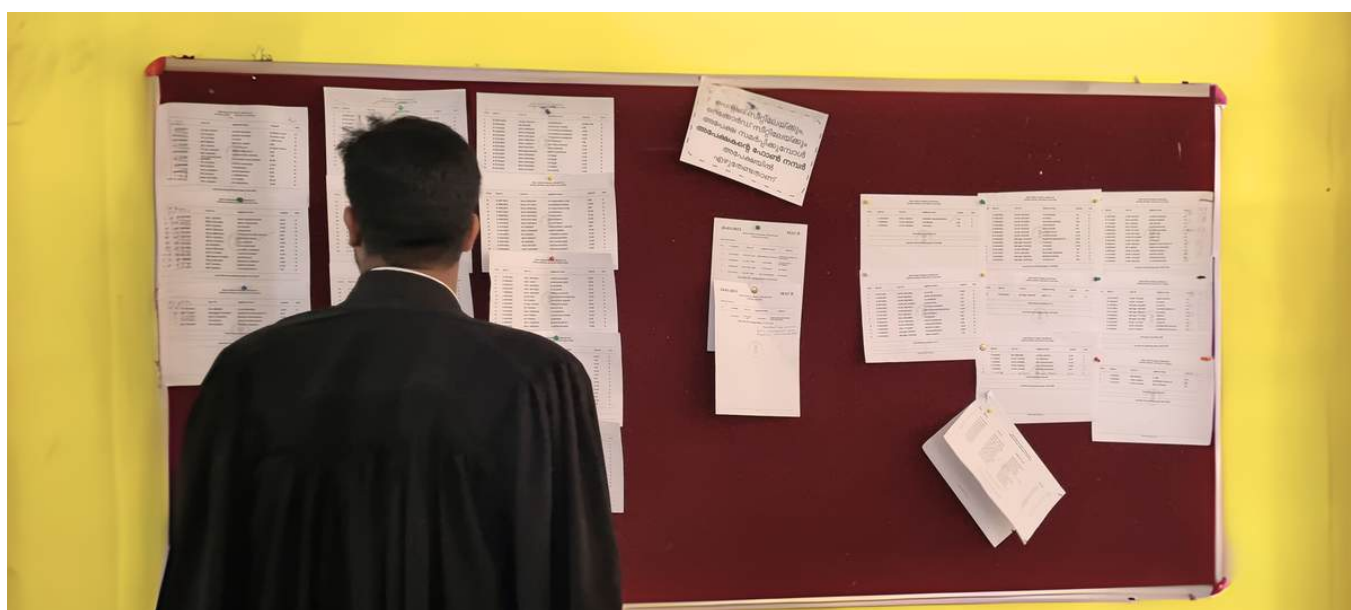
only be entertained after the division bench hearings concluded. The case appeared on the single judge's causelist for weeks but was repeatedly postponed due to the division bench proceedings. This forced the lawyer to prepare every day, monitor the case, and wait in court. The involvement of a senior lawyer also added to the financial burden on the client. After enduring three weeks of this ordeal, the lawyer raised the issue with the judge, leading to the removal of his case from the single judge's causelist.

Interim orders and uncertainty:

The uncertainty in court hearings is critical for cases involving interim orders that prohibit coercive actions or ask for status quo to be maintained. Lawyers recounted instances where cases with interim orders effective until a specified date were not listed or heard as scheduled. For example, the court may have mandated listing within three weeks, during which the interim order remains in effect. However, the matter may not be listed or, if listed, may not be heard due to preceding cases still being addressed, leading to the expiration of the interim order's protection. In such situations, lawyers typically bring the matter to the judge's attention before the day concludes, explaining the issue with the interim order. Judges often respond by issuing an order to extend the protection or to expedite the listing of the matter. It is essential to note that even in cases where an extension is eventually granted, it introduces a period of stress as all parties anxiously await the resolution of the interim order's fate. Lawyers recounted instances where such extensions were not provided, allowing the opposing party to take advantage, leading to arrests, legal proceedings, and property demolitions on the grounds that the interim protection has lapsed.

Daily impact on lawyers:

Many lawyers constantly feel on edge due to the uncertainties inherent in court proceedings. They find themselves frequently checking the display board,¹⁵ rather than focusing on their own cases. This heightened state affects their mental well-being and overall productivity. Alleviating even a fraction of this stress within the legal system could lead to more effective and efficient work, potentially increasing case disposal rates and improving the delivery of justice.



¹⁵An electronic list which shows the real-time progression of serial numbers of cases being heard throughout the day by courts, often displayed in court halls and also available on the court website



Suggestion to enhance hearing certainty in courts:

The following suggestions can help enhance certainty of hearing:

- Courts could allot approximate times for each hearing or split the day into forenoon and afternoon sessions to minimise waiting. Another option would be to provide one slot for a certain number of cases so that people know for certain their case will not be taken up before or after that slot and they can be in court only for that time slot. As evidenced by the submission of the Registrar General, Kerala High Court as mentioned above, the court registry is capable of ascertaining the average time that can be taken to hear a case and schedule cases accordingly.¹⁶ During the COVID-19 pandemic as well, several high courts allocated time slots for hearings.

With regard to slotting or providing time for hearings, considering the inherent unpredictability of court hearings, it is unrealistic to expect that cases will always proceed exactly as scheduled. Cases anticipated to take longer may conclude quickly, and shorter cases may take more time. These factors necessitate flexible scheduling alternatives. One practical approach is to ensure that individuals or lawyers are not penalized for not being present in court before their assigned slot, even if the cases before them finish earlier than expected. This can reduce unnecessary waiting times and allow lawyers and litigants to manage their schedules more effectively. During any resulting downtime, judges could utilize the time for other important tasks, such as reviewing case files for upcoming hearings or examining previously passed orders. Although implementing such a system may seem challenging in the context of Indian courts, various iterations could be attempted. Even partial success could yield significant benefits, improving efficiency and certainty during case proceedings.

- Pre-listing hearings where lawyers confirm readiness and estimate argument duration could also streamline proceedings. Final lists for hearing could then be prepared based on this information. A comparison could be drawn to the vacation list released by the Supreme Court, where a list is provided with matters the court is interested in disposing of, and lawyers express their interest in arguing particular matters. Once both sides agree, the matter is listed for hearing. This approach not only facilitates better preparation but also reduces the likelihood of adjournments, thereby increasing the disposal rate of cases.



Allot and Allocate Time Slots for Hearings



Pre-listing Hearings for Readiness



Finalization of Hearing Lists in advance

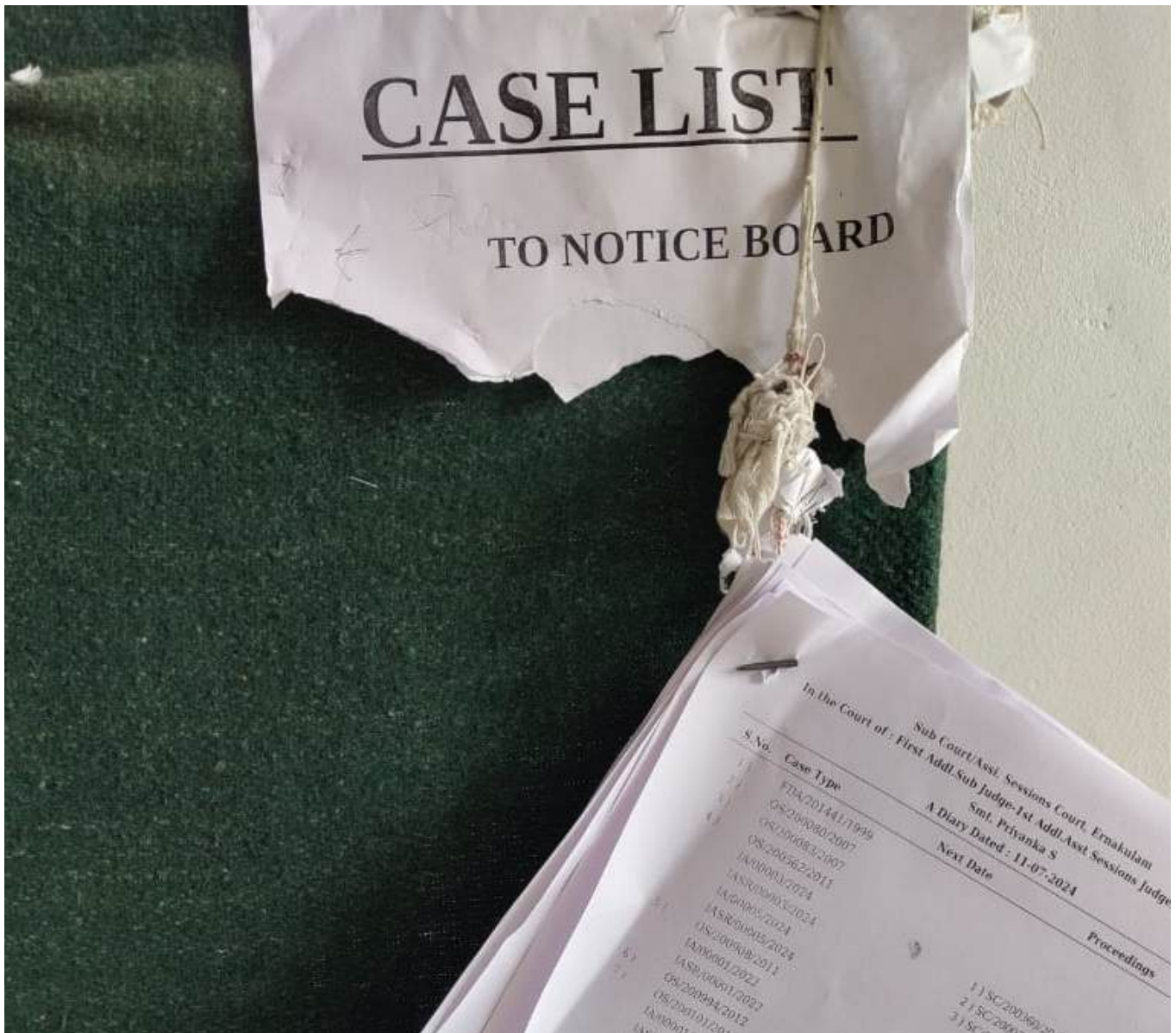


Assessing Individual Case Complexity

With the use of processes such as finalisation of lists in advance and pre-listing hearings, an approximate time of hearing could be decided for each matter. However, it is essential to recognise that managing the vast number of cases in our courts makes this a challenging endeavour. It is likely that additional strategies, such as assessing individual case complexity (as discussed in Chapter 5), will be necessary to achieve feasibility and genuine effectiveness in this regard.

¹⁶ Yeshwanth Shenoy v. Chief Justice and Ors., 2023:KER:30917, order dated 09.06.2023

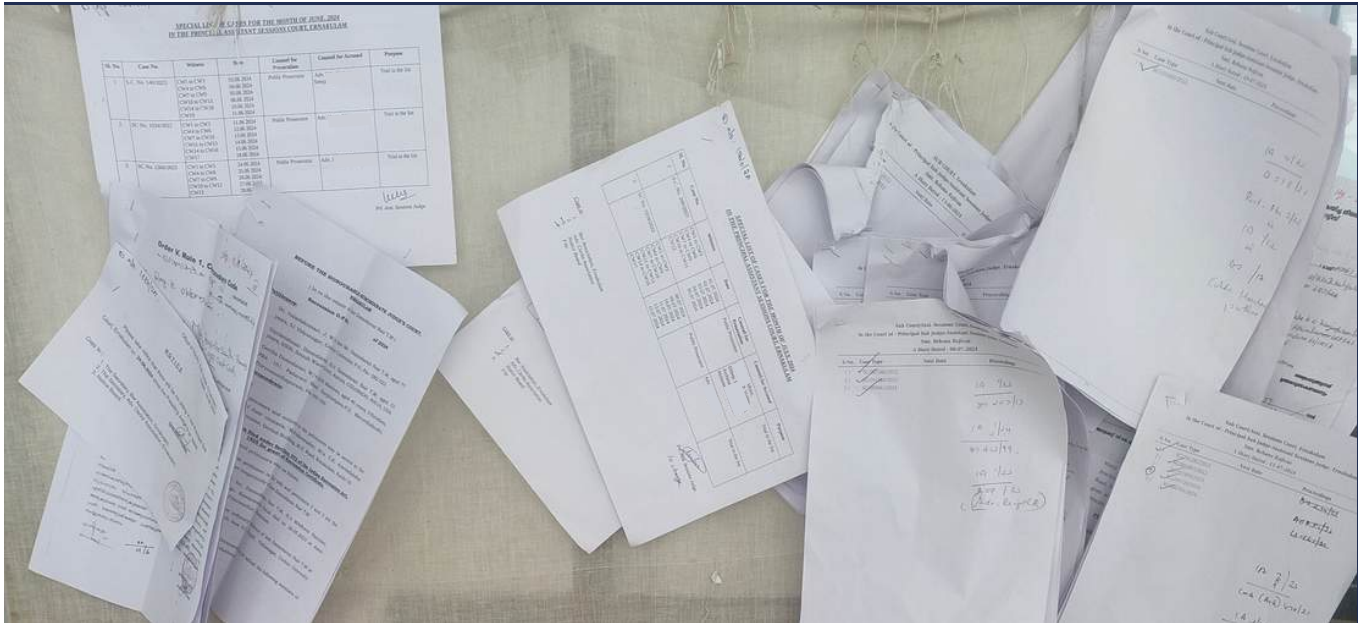
ISSUE 3: LACK OF INDICATION OF THE CASE PURPOSE/STAGE



The causelist often does not have information about the purpose of hearing for each case, which is crucial for judges, lawyers, litigants, journalists, and others. Mentioning the stages or purpose of hearing will allow lawyers to better estimate the time that may be taken for cases to be heard, thereby knowing if and when their cases will be heard. This would also help lawyers prepare better, thus increasing the chances of the case getting resolved quickly. Journalists would be able to understand more details about the case to be able to pick which court proceedings to watch and report on.¹⁷ Not specifying the purpose of hearing also makes it difficult for litigants to understand the reason for listing and the proceedings. Disclosing the purpose of each hearing promotes transparency and enhances legal proceedings' effectiveness.

¹⁷Justice Committee. 2022. Open justice: court reporting in the digital age. United Kingdom. House of Commons, available at <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31426/documents/176229/default/> (accessed on 25 May 20

ISSUE 4: VARIABILITY IN COURT CASE LISTS AND CHRONOLOGY OF HEARING OF LISTS



Variability of lists:

While browsing through a court's website for its caselists, one may encounter various types of lists for a single day or week, such as the daily list, main list, supplementary lists 1/2/3, regular list, miscellaneous lists, weekly list, production list and more. Some court websites even name some lists on their websites which are not released. Additionally, certain courts use terms like the "800 list" or "1500 list" which will be unfamiliar to anyone who is not a regular practitioner at that court.

1	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF	1 / 1	Separate List 1
2	HONOURABLE	1 / 1	Separate List 5
3	HONOURABLE	1 / 1	Part Two
4	HONOURABLE	1 / 1	Daily List
5	HONOURABLE	7E / 7E	Early Petition
32	HONOURABLE	7B / 7B	Fresh Admission List Paperless
33	HONOURABLE	7B / 7B	Not Admitted List

Click on Date to see Complete Cause List		
List Date	List Type	Main/Sup
23/02/2024	Liquidation (Ordinary)	Main List
23/02/2024	Urgent	Main List
23/02/2024	Takenup	Main List
23/02/2024	Special DB	Supplementary List
23/02/2024	Special DB	Main List
23/02/2024	Regular	Supplementary List
23/02/2024	Liquidation (Urgent)	Main List
23/02/2024	Ordinary	Supplementary List
23/02/2024	Ordinary	Main List
23/02/2024	Lok Adalat	Main List
23/02/2024	Commercial (Ordinary)	Main List
23/02/2024	Commercial (Urgent)	Main List
23/02/2024	Complete List	Main List

Court No.	Judge Wise	Index	AOR	Party Name	Advance
Advance Single Judge	Single Judge	Chamber	Final Elimination	Terminal	Weekly
	Advance Elimination		Previous List		
Vacation Advance					

S.No	Cause List	Date	View / Download
1	Supplementary Pronouncement-3 of Judgment on 20.02.2024		
2	Supplementary Cause List-8 (Original Side) of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
3	Supplementary Cause List-7 of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
4	Supplementary Cause List-6 of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
5	DELETION NOTE-2 FOR 20.02.2024		
6	Supplementary Pronouncement-2 of Judgment on 20.02.2024		
7	Supplementary Cause List-5 of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
8	Supplementary Cause List-4 of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
9	DELETION NOTE FOR 20.02.2024		
10	Supplementary Cause List-3 (ORIGINAL SIDE) of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
11	FINAL MATTERS (ORIGINAL SIDE) CAUSE LIST FOR 20.02.2024		
12	Pronouncement of Judgement (ORIGINAL SIDE) on 20.02.2024		
13	Supplementary Cause List-2 of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
14	Pre Lok Adalat Cause List for 20.02.2024		
15	Pronouncement of Judgement on 20.02.2024		
16	Supplementary Cause List-1 of Sitting of Benches 20.02.2024		
17	REGULAR MATTERS CAUSE LIST FOR 20.02.2024		
18	Cause List of Sitting of Benches for 20.02.2024		
19	Supplementary Cause List-8 (ORIGINAL SIDE) of Sitting of Benches 19.02.2024		
20	Supplementary Cause List-7 of Sitting of Benches 19.02.2024		

Causelists of different courts showing names of different kinds of lists



Lack of standardisation in nomenclature

Since each court uses its own unique terms, it becomes difficult for those not familiar with the court to understand the causelist. What is known as an "advance list," "supplementary list," or "weekly list" in one jurisdiction may be called by a different name elsewhere. Even experienced lawyers might not understand the exact purposes of certain lists after years of practice in specific courts. This inconsistency also confuses those from different jurisdictions. For individuals without formal legal training, navigating these variations can be daunting, hindering accessibility and understanding of court proceedings.



Time-consuming and prone to errors

As noted earlier, each court publishes multiple lists. For a lawyer managing cases across several courts and states, juggling these various causelists can be challenging. The process becomes more complex due to differing nomenclatures, release schedules, and procedures among courts. This complexity increases the risk of missing crucial case details, resulting in wasted time and potential oversight of important case updates.



Variability in order of cases

These lists are typically heard in no standardised order across courts, but rather at the judge's discretion, making it difficult to assess when a case will be heard. For instance, some courts hear supplementary cases first, while others prioritise the main list. Even when courts provide instructions deciphering the sequence often requires consulting multiple lists and thoroughly examining the entire causelist or court website. Despite these efforts, uncertainty persists, necessitating clarification from the court master, who may not always be willing to provide information. Consequently, individuals must rely heavily on their experience. Without help from a local lawyer or clerk, understanding the multiple lists and their order is nearly impossible for lawyers who do not regularly practice in that court or for litigants. This also significantly affects lawyers who brief other lawyers to argue in their cases, as they have to manage the schedule of another person based on their understanding of the chronology of the lists.



Call for standardisation and clear instructions on order of lists:

Standardising court lists to a certain extent is essential. One approach could be to limit the number of lists released, or alternatively, provide clear explanations of the differences between various lists on the court's website. Regarding the order in which cases are heard, while judges may prefer discretion in managing their courts, there should be a uniform sequence. Another solution could be to provide explicit instructions in the causelist about the order in which matters will be heard or issuance of a consolidated causelist that arranges all published lists according to the order in which they will be heard by the judge.

ISSUE 5:

INACCESSIBILITY OF CASE DETAILS IN SINGULAR LOCATION



The Challenge

Causelists, often spanning hundreds of pages, are impractical to review in full. Instead, individuals typically use the search function to find case details using names of parties or advocates or case numbers. However, crucial information such as hearing times or judge availability is not always provided in the causelists itself. In some cases specific information for a case regarding the non-availability of the judge or the particular time the case will be taken up is not mentioned next to the case number or court number. This information may be in another location in the cause list or in another part of the website under ‘notices’ or as tickers. In some cases, when this case is referred to in another part of the causelist, only the serial number of the case in that day’s cause list will be mentioned, which does not help in searching for the case.

11	16-05-2024 Due to Non availability of Hon'ble [REDACTED] Division Bench SPL-I comprising of Hon'ble [REDACTED] & Hon'ble [REDACTED] and Single Bench-XVI presided by Hon'ble [REDACTED] on 16-05-2024 at [REDACTED]
12	13-05-2024 Division Bench-I comprising of Hon'ble [REDACTED] and Hon'ble [REDACTED] is cancelled AND Hon'ble [REDACTED] will sit in Single Bench-IX on 14-05-2024 at [REDACTED]
13	12-05-2024 Division Bench-II comprising of Hon'ble [REDACTED] and Hon'ble [REDACTED], is cancelled AND Hon'ble [REDACTED] will sit in Single Bench-II on 13-05-2024 & 14-05-2024 at [REDACTED]
14	10-05-2024 Single Bench-XX presided by Hon'ble [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is cancelled from 13-05-2024 to 17-05-2024 at [REDACTED]
15	09-05-2024 Single Bench-XIII presided by Hon'ble [REDACTED] [REDACTED], is cancelled on 10-05-2024 at [REDACTED]
16	07-05-2024 Single Bench-XX presided by Hon'ble [REDACTED] [REDACTED], is cancelled from 08-05-2024 to 10-05-2024 at [REDACTED]
17	06-05-2024 Single Bench-XV presided by Hon'ble [REDACTED] [REDACTED], is cancelled on 06-05-2024 at [REDACTED]

Notes affecting hearing of cases being provided in another location on the website

and
HON'BLE [REDACTED]
will sit in a Division Bench at 2.15 P.M. on 19.02.2024 and take up the cases as listed through Video Conferencing / Hybrid / Physical Mode.

II. HON'BLE [REDACTED]

and

HON'BLE [REDACTED]

will sit in a Division Bench at 5.00 P.M. on 19.02.2024 and take up the Madurai Bench cases as listed through Video Conferencing / Hybrid / Physical Mode.

III. HON'BLE [REDACTED]

and

HON'BLE [REDACTED]

will sit in a Division Bench at 4.15 P.M. on 19.02.2024 and take up the cases as listed through Video Conferencing / Hybrid / Physical Mode.

IV. Urgent matters in Writ Petitions relating to Labour and Service – from the year 2014 to 2016 also will be listed before HON'BLE [REDACTED] from 19.02.2024 to 01.03.2024.

V. HON'BLE [REDACTED]

is not sitting in Court on 19.02.2024.

VI. HON'BLE [REDACTED]

is not sitting in Court on 19.02.2024.

VII. Urgent matters in Criminal Original Petitions (under Sections 407 and 482 Cr.P.C.), Writ Petitions (Cr.P.C.) – up to the year 2021 also will be listed before HON'BLE [REDACTED] on 19.02.2024.

Notes affecting hearing of cases provided as part of causelist but not connected to the court

DELETION NOTES

1. CRL.A. 136/2021 LISTED BEFORE HON'BLE [REDACTED] AT ITEM NO. 19 IS DELETED.
2. RC.REV. 357/2015 LISTED BEFORE HON'BLE [REDACTED] AT ITEM NO. 3 IS DELETED AS THE SAME IS FIXED FOR 05.04.2024.
3. RFA 536/2011 LISTED BEFORE MS. [REDACTED] REGISTRAR AT ITEM NO. 9 IS DELETED AS THE SAME IS LISTED BEFORE [REDACTED] JOINT REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL) .

Notes relating to deletion being provided in another part of the causelist and being referred to only as case number and item number



Proposed Solution

Centralising all information related to hearings in a dedicated causelist section, with instructions specific to a court being mentioned along with it, would improve accessibility.

ISSUE 6:

LACK OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Accessibility Challenges of Causelists and Court Websites:

Although Sections 40, 42 and 46 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Rule 15(1)(c) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 necessitate that all electronic content available on all websites must be made accessible within a timeframe of 2 years, most court websites and specifically causelists are not accessible. These are usually tested on factors such as information being perceivable, easily operable, understandable and robust, which are necessary to make access for persons with disabilities possible.¹⁸ These infrastructural barriers must be removed so that the accessibility of these causelists can be enhanced for persons with disabilities. The needs of individuals with different disabilities vary widely and are not the same. Accessibility audits must be conducted of causelists and the court website to ensure compliance with accessibility standards of various disabilities. Ideally, persons with disabilities must be involved from the initial process of development so that their feedback can be incorporated right from the beginning. Components added to these pages must be carefully designed with the user in mind, rather than merely included to meet statutory requirements. For example, although most courts provide the option of using screen readers on their websites for individuals with

¹⁸ W3C World Wide Web Consortium. 2023. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1. Available online at <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/> (accessed on 22 April 2024)

disabilities, the pages are often not designed to allow for easy navigation with these tools, rendering them functionally unusable.



Recommendations for Improved Accessibility:

Tabular Presentation: Presenting causelist data in separate lines or tabular formats enhances readability for screen readers.

HTML/OCR Formats: Providing causelists in HTML or OCR formats facilitates easier navigation for screen readers compared to other formats.

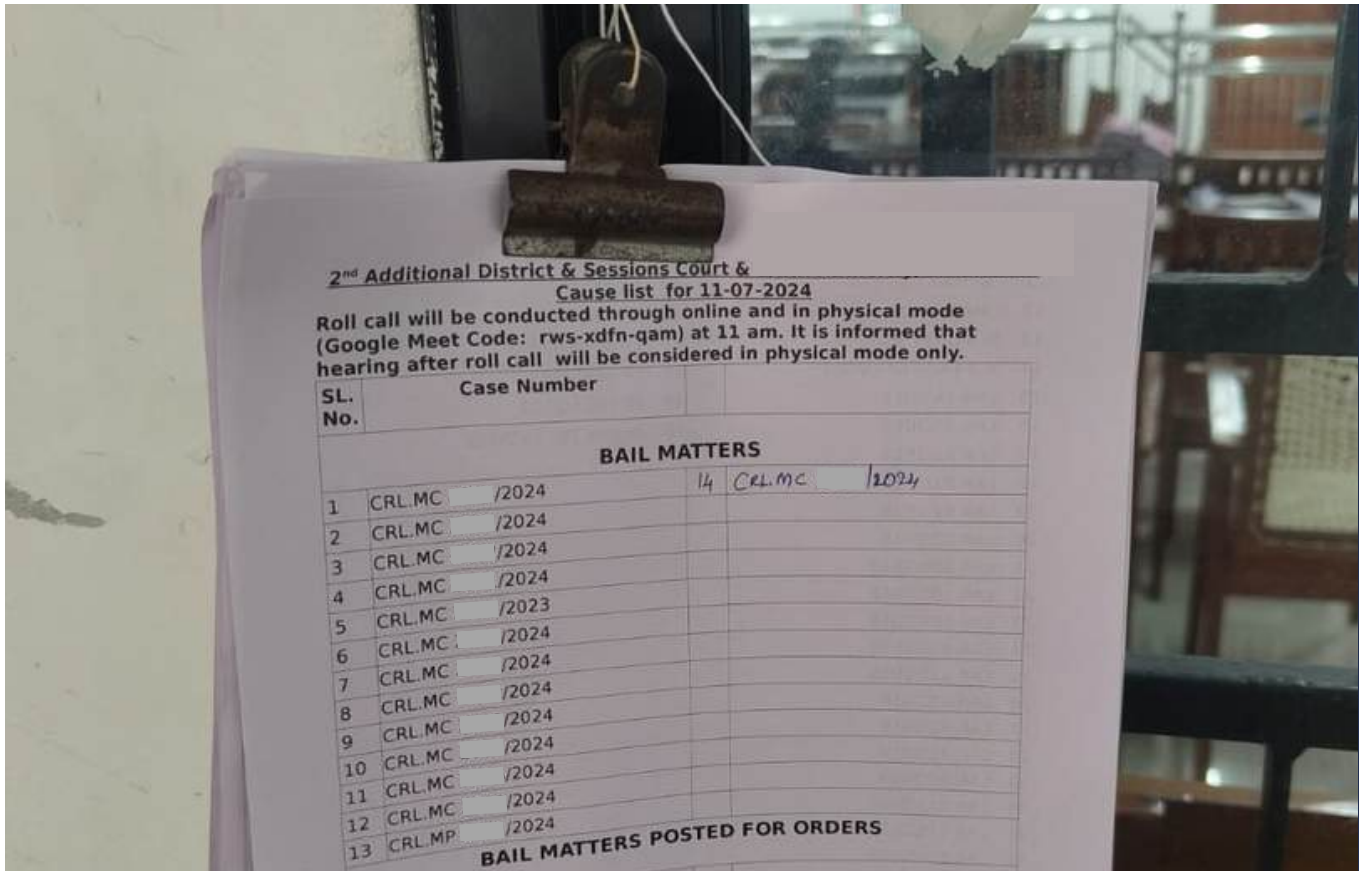
CAPTCHA: Non-text based (image, audio) CAPTCHAs on the causelists page are often difficult to use, especially with screen readers, and the audio versions are not always clear. Since causelists are publicly available data, security concerns are likely minimal. Therefore, it might be feasible to remove CAPTCHA from these pages or to use smart algorithms that do not require human input. Alternatively, providing clear, undistorted audio alternatives, smart CAPTCHAs or simple text-based questions such as the sum of two digits is essential. If the CAPTCHA is not text-based, a text alternative notifying the user that this step must be completed must be provided.

Navigation Simplification: The design of drop down menus and hover actions must conform with accessibility standards.

Inaccessibility of Display Boards: Screen-readers are not able to read the display boards accurately on the court websites because they auto-refresh when the next hearing begins. Courts should consider any accessible alternative.

Standard Design Practices: Adhering to proper list markup, semantic HTML development, and correct use of headings supports accessibility across court websites and causelists.

ISSUE 7: LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF NAMES OF ALL PARTIES AND LAWYERS



In High Courts and the Supreme Court, causelists typically mention only the first petitioner/respondent, with others indicated as 'Anr.' or 'Ors.' Providing names of all parties could be beneficial to all stakeholders.



Impact on lawyers

For example, if a lawyer needs to determine whether a case or appeal has been filed but the specific party he is looking for is not listed as the first Petitioner/Respondent and he does not have the case number or details of other parties, he would need to file a caveat¹⁹ to obtain information about the case. The non-availability of party information thus leads to additional proceedings in already overburdened courts.

Government lawyers often represent the state or agencies which may be part of a group of multiple other respondents. Given their extensive caseloads, having the names of the state or agency they represent listed explicitly would facilitate easier identification of cases where they are parties.

¹⁹An application filed in court to request that no action be taken in the case without her knowledge

Including all parties' names in causelists would assist developers of technological solutions. For instance, those analysing causelists to track how often specific litigants appear in cases would find it difficult if the litigant is not listed first. With names of all parties, tracking such matters would be much easier, reducing the chances of inaccuracies or omissions.



Impact on legal data analysis

Including all parties' names in causelists would assist developers of technological solutions. For instance, those analysing causelists to track how often specific litigants appear in cases would find it difficult if the litigant is not listed first. With case numbers, tracking such matters would be much easier, reducing the chances of inaccuracies or omissions. Including the names of all parties would provide more comprehensive case details for lawyers, ensuring that they do not overlook important matters.



Difficulty in identifying key lawyers

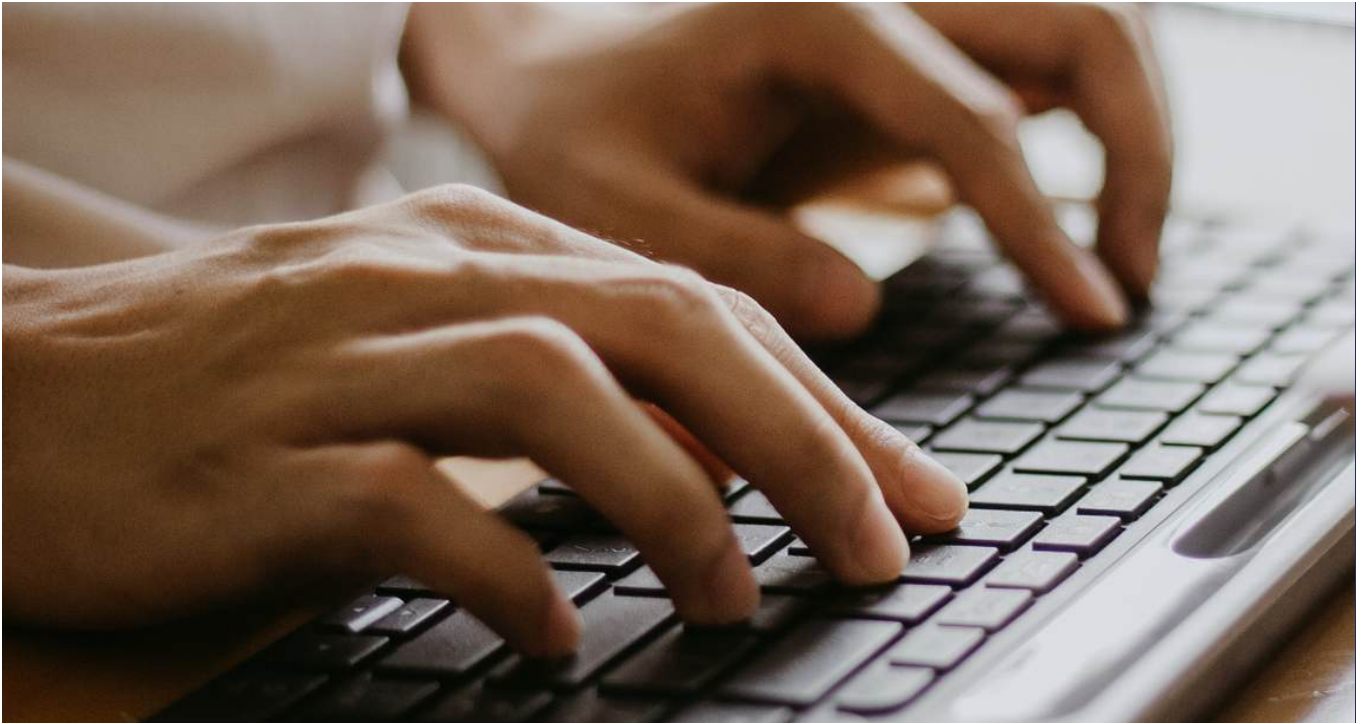
Some causelists omit the names of all lawyers for petitioners and respondents, complicating communication. Even when listed, lawyers' names are often grouped under headings like "petitioners" and "respondents," and it is not clear who represents whom. This ambiguity makes it challenging to identify the correct lawyer for each party. A clearer solution would be to directly link each lawyer's name with the party they represent. This adjustment would significantly improve causelist usability and utility.



Clarifying firm names in causelists

Lawyers have noted a common practice in certain courts where causelists do not mention law firm names, despite vakalatnamas being executed in their name. This creates accessibility challenges, especially when multiple lawyers from a firm are involved in a case. Changes in the legal team in the law firm are also not reflected in causelists, which only list individual lawyers. This can lead to confusion if a lawyer is no longer associated with the firm.

ISSUE 8: UNAVAILABILITY OF CAUSELISTS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS



Providing access to causelists through technology

Various technology firms like Provakil, Mercury, Legistify, Libra, and Manage My LawSuits are developing tools to streamline access to court causelists and case management. The National Informatics Centre has also created the eCourts Services app, although users find it less reliable than private options. These private platforms use web scraping to consolidate detailed case information from court websites, offering a unified interface showing listed cases, daily orders and related cases. Instead of continually monitoring the court website for new cause lists or navigating different sections to download orders, users can access them soon after they are published on the court website. These platforms are particularly beneficial for lawyers and litigants when courts release multiple lists at unpredictable times. They also facilitate easy case tracking by allowing users to search by advocate's or litigant's name, case number, or specific case number against which an appeal has been filed, instead of requiring them to check multiple causelists.

The tools created by tech firms by leveraging public court data, such as causelists, fill gaps in court technology and aid lawyers and litigants. They transform complex legal data into user-friendly formats, promoting public access and understanding of legal processes. However, robust regulations are needed to safeguard privacy and data integrity while enabling usage of court data by legal tech companies.



Challenges faced by technological companies

- **Lack of Standardization and Security Measures:** Data formatting and structure on court websites is not standardised. Varying publication methods and schedules of lists and supplementary notices, as well as unique layouts and coding practices across different courts and jurisdictions complicate data extraction. Additionally, court websites may employ security measures to prevent automated scraping, adding another layer of complexity.
- **Inability of Technology to Capture All Information Needed:** Due to the design of causelists and the lack of a standardised and comprehensive location on court websites where all causelist-related information is published, these tech platforms sometimes miss some matters. Deletion notes of cases or additional case schedules changed through supplementary notices are not always picked up in the data scraping process. As a result, lawyers still rely on checking causelists manually because these applications are not entirely reliable.



Enhancing digital integration in legal systems

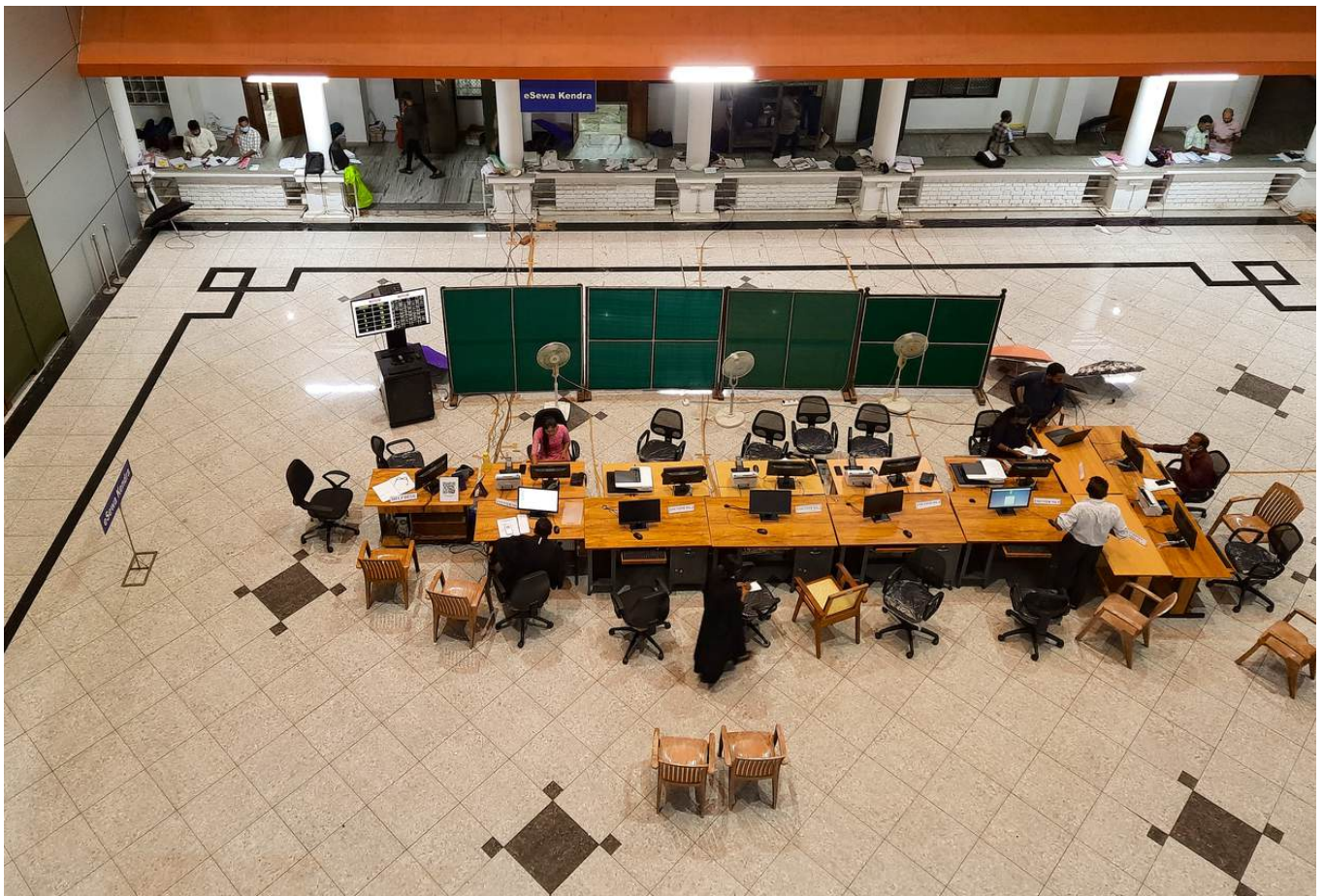
The current disorganised manner of presentation of causelist data poses significant barriers to integrating digital technologies into the legal landscape. This hampers citizens, litigants, and legal practitioners from effectively utilising digital platforms to access case information, track proceedings, and engage in the judicial process. As digital consumption of case data grows, there is a pressing need to optimise how causelists are organised and published to support this trend.



Causelists as digital public goods

Causelists could be thought of as being digital public goods,²⁰ which encompass open-source software, datasets, and interoperability standards, which will empower government agencies to enhance citizen services. By making causelist data available as open data, and ensuring it meets standards that remove barriers, tech companies would not need to scrape data. This approach can facilitate innovation, improve communication across digital systems, and promote the delivery of efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric services. Open sharing of judicial data in some forms is already made available through Application Programming Interface (API), this can be extended to the data included in causelists. Ensuring open access to causelists would support the development of new applications and tools, streamline legal processes, and make judicial information more accessible to the public. While these case management platforms make the daily lives of their users easier, not all lawyers, litigants, or other relevant stakeholders can afford the services of these private entities. This could also help in the development of more affordable options.

²⁰Available at <https://digitalpublicgoods.net/digital-public-goods/> (accessed on 11 February 2024)



Integration with legal databases and technologies would facilitate collaboration among stakeholders and promote consistent practices in causelist creation. Ultimately, this transformation would strengthen judicial accountability, ensuring fairness, transparency, and efficiency in legal proceedings.

CHAPTER 2

Best Practices Followed in Indian Courts

- 1** Providing case numbers linked to case status and details 
- 2** Comprehensive case status information 
- 3** Designating specific days for multiple rosters 
- 4** Including court-specific instructions 
- 5** Providing video conferencing links in cauelists 
- 6** Categorising cases by stage/type 
- 7** Including additional information about cases 
- 8** Marking names of lawyers separately and including their contact information 
- 9** Providing varied formats for cauelists 
- 10** Making cauelists accessible to visually-impaired persons 
- 11** Providing an overview of cases for the day 
- 12** Providing Details of Live Streaming 
- 13** Making provision for archiving cauelists 
- 14** Making details of court staff available 
- 15** Clearly indicating the time of cauelist publication and generation 
- 16** Mentioning the order in which lists will be taken up 

Certain courts in India²¹ have adopted commendable practices aimed at including pertinent case information, improving accessibility, and streamlining navigation within the legal system. This chapter documents these practices, which aim to foster transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness, thereby making the legal system more accessible and fair for all involved.

²¹ Disclaimer: Please note that court websites are subject to frequent updates. The features of the courts listed below are accurate as of the publication date. However, these features may change over time, with some courts possibly losing these features, new courts adopting them, or additional features emerging that are not identified here.



Providing case numbers linked to case status and details

To facilitate convenient access to case status directly from the causelist, some²² courts incorporate a hyperlink on the case number in the causelist. By clicking this hyperlink, users can access comprehensive case status information and details on the court website easily.

Sr.No.	Case Number	Main Parties	Petitioner Advocate	Respondent Advocate
1	WA/2017	- FOR ORDERS - and A Versus COMPANY		
2	WITH WA/2014	A and ANR. Versus M/S. P LTD.		MR.
3	WITH WA/2014	A and Versus D and		MR.
4	WITH WA/2014	 and ANR. Versus		
5	WITH WA/2014	A and Versus TD.		MS. MS.
6	WITH WA/2014	A and Versus M/S. LTD		MS.

Screenshot from causelist of Gauhati High Court



Comprehensive case status information

Most courts typically provide basic case status information that is parties names, lawyers, and posting details. Some courts²³ provide more details like prayers sought, lower court information, and linked cases. It has been noticed in some courts that do have these pages, while the tab for daily orders is provided, the orders are not made functionally available. It needs to be ensured that if a functionality is provided, all the details required for it are regularly updated.

Status: Pending	Case Number:	Classification:	Date of Filing:	
Petitioner:	Pet. Advocate:	Respondent:	Resp. Advocate:	
Filing No.:	Judge:	Last Posted For:	Last Date of Action:	Last Action Taken:
Next Hearing Date:				
Prayer Information				
Party Information				
Caveator/Caveatee Information				
Trial/Appellate Information				
Daily Orders Information				
Linked Cases				
Judgment Information				
Certified Copy Information (Final Order)				
Certified Copy Information (Interim Order)				
Index Sheet Information				

Screenshot from causelist webpage of Karnataka High Court

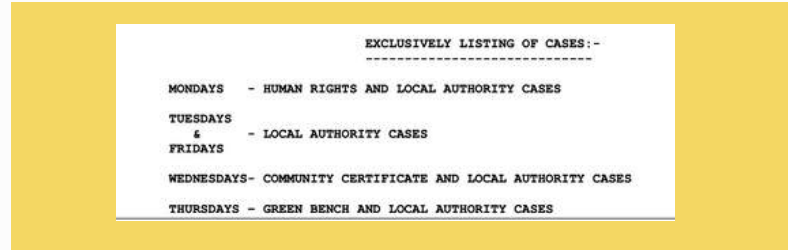
²² Andhra Pradesh HC, Gauhati HC, Karnataka HC, Patna HC, Telangana HC

²³ Supreme Court, Karnataka HC, Madras HC



Designating specific days for multiple rosters

The Madras High Court designates specific days for different types of cases in courts where judges handle multiple rosters. The causelist indicates the days of the week when each type of case will be heard, ensuring clarity and enabling better planning.

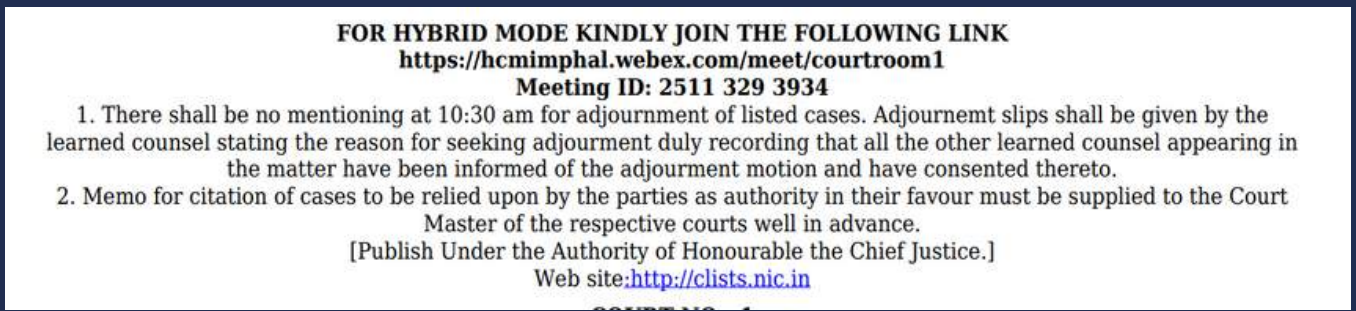


Screenshot from causelist of Madras High Court

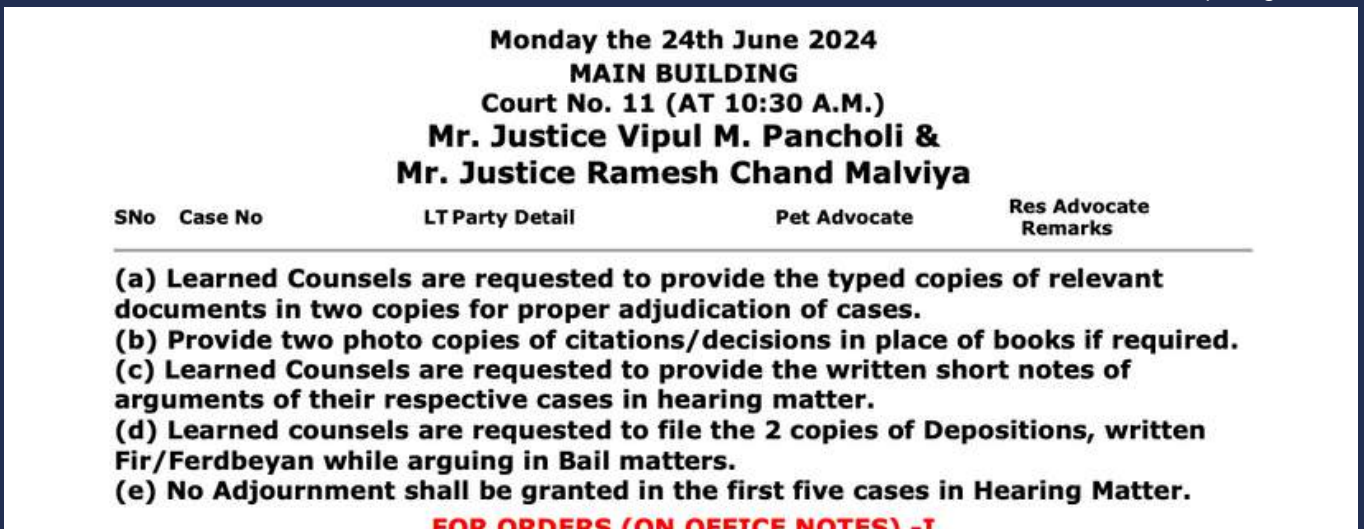


Including court-specific instructions

Judges often have specific instructions for the matters listed for the day and the general administration of the court. Some courts²⁴ include these instructions in the causelist, making them more clear and accessible.



Screenshot from causelist of Manipur High Court



Screenshot from causelist of Patna High Court



Providing video conferencing links in causerlists

Some²⁵ High Courts provide video conferencing links directly in the causelist, ensuring easy access and saving time that might otherwise be spent searching for the link.

²⁴ Bombay HC at Goa, Delhi HC, Manipur HC, Patna HC, Uttarakhand HC

²⁵ Bihar HC, Calcutta HC, Chhattisgarh HC, HC of Bombay at Goa (in some lists), Delhi HC, Gujarat HC, Punjab & Haryana HC, Madhya Pradesh HC, Manipur HC, Meghalaya HC, Rajasthan HC, Sikkim HC, Madras HC, Tripura HC

HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT	
IN THE DIVISION COURT OF HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL AND HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE	LIST DATE: 28/06/2024 1st Sitting: 11:00 AM - 01:45 PM 2nd Sitting: 02:30 PM - 05:00 PM
DAILY BOARD COURT NO : Today's Zoom VC Hybrid Hearing Link	FIRST FLOOR COURT ROOM NO: 1 Meeting ID: _____ Password: _____

Screenshot from causelist of Gujarat High Court

TO BE HEARD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING / HYBRID MODE / PHYSICAL MODE
ON FRIDAY THE 28TH DAY OF JUNE 2024 AT 10.30 A.M.

 (MONDAY, TUESDAY & FRIDAY - WILL TAKE UP CRP & TR.CMP. CASES - (2023) .
 (WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY- WILL TAKE UP SECOND APPEAL CASES - (2019 & 2020)


COURT NO. 20

THE ADVOCATES/PARTY IN PERSON ARE REQUESTED

1. TO INSTALL MICROSOFT TEAMS VC APPLICATION IN THEIR DESKTOP/LAPTOP / I-PAD / MOBILE PHONE AND TO JOIN THE COURT VC SESSION [CLICK HERE](#)
2. **TO MENTION THE ITEM NO AND NAME WHILE LOGIN TO THE COURT.**
3. TO MAINTAIN PROPER DRESS CODE.
4. TO MUTE THEIR MIC WHILE OTHER COUNSEL IS IN ARGUMENT, TO PREVENT UNWANTED NOISE DISTURBANCE DURING THE VIDEO CONFERENCING AND UNMUTE THE MIC ONLY AT THE TIME OF THEIR ARGUMENT.
5. LAWYERS TO KEEP THEIR VIDEOS ON BUT MIC OFF.
6. COURT LINK ALSO AVAILABLE IN <https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/vclink>

Screenshot from causelist of Madras High Court





BOMBAY HIGHCOURT
DAILY MAIN CAUSELIST
 For Friday The 28th June 2024
COURT NO. 46
DIVISION
AT 3:30 PM
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE N. J. JAMADAR

HEADER NOTE :
<https://zoom.us/my/dbcourt1>
 Meeting ID: 429 143 9789

Screenshot from causelist of Bombay High Court

C.L.No.	Case No.	Petitioner Vs. Respondent	Advocates for Pet./Res.	Remarks
FINAL HEARING				
601	WP - [REDACTED] /2008	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Disposed JOIN VC
		Vs. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
602	AC - [REDACTED] /2017	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Disposed JOIN VC
		Vs. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
603	AC - [REDACTED] 2021	[REDACTED] REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP FIRM	[REDACTED]	Disposed JOIN VC
		Vs. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
604	AC - [REDACTED] 2021	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Disposed JOIN VC
		Vs. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

Screenshot from causelist of Madhya Pradesh High Court



Categorising cases by stage/type

Many courts²⁶ categorise the causelist based on the stage or type of the case, which makes the nature of the case clear and indicates the required level of preparation and the amount of time that may be taken for the hearing.

*** ADMISSION MATTERS (AFTER FRESH) ***

40 WPMS/ /2022 M/S C.S.C.
Versus

CONNECTED WITH
40(1) WPMS/ /2022
Versus

WITH
/2023 FOR MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION WITH REJOINER AFFIDAVIT
41 WPM/ /2024 C.S.C.
Versus

WITH
IA/ 024 FOR INTERIM RELIEF APPLICATION

*** ORDERS ON APPLICATIONS ***

42 IA/ /2023 FOR STAY EXTENSION APPLICATION
IA/ /2024 FOR URGENCY APPLICATION
IN
FA/ /2018

Screenshot from causelist of Uttarakhand High Court

ADMISSION HEARING

1) WP(C)/ (2020
vs.

With MC(WPC)/ (2020
vs. HL

ORDERS

2) CrI.Petn./ 2024
vs. F

Screenshot from causelist of Meghalaya High Court

TO BE MENTIONED

1. MJC/ /2023 2
CONTEMPT- DB

2. CWJC/ /2024 1
EXCISE ACT (STATE)

FOR ADMISSION II

3. CR. WJC/1 2023 12
HABEAS CORPUS
HABEAS CORPUS

4. CR. WJC/1 2023 12
HABEAS CORPUS
HABEAS CORPUS

5. CR. WJC/ /2024 3
HABEAS CORPUS
HABEAS CORPUS

FOR ORDERS (ON OFFICE NOTES)

6. MJC/78/ 18 2

7. L.P.A/75/ 19 5

Screenshot from causelist of Patna High Court

²⁶Supreme Court, Andhra Pradesh HC, Bombay HC, Bihar HC, Calcutta HC, Chhattisgarh HC, HC of Bombay at Goa, Delhi HC, Gauhati HC, Gujarat HC, Himachal HC, Jharkhand HC, Kerala HC, Madhya Pradesh HC, Manipur HC, Meghalaya HC, Orissa HC, Rajasthan HC, Madras HC, Telangana HC, Tripura HC, Uttarakhand HC



Including additional information about cases

Some courts²⁷ also include additional remarks about the case, such as a list of documents on record, details of connected cases, the date of the last listing, details of objections not cleared, procedural remarks/lapses by any party that must be corrected, parties served and the history of adjournments. These remarks contribute to providing clear information in an accessible manner, facilitating preparation, decision-making, and specific actions by all stakeholders involved. Additionally, the Gujarat High Court causelist sometimes includes the reason for filing of the matter and the Tripura High Court mentions the background of the case.

FOR ADMISSION	
1 CA/1/2022 IN F/FA/ /2020 (SURAT)	1- FOR BRINGING HEIRS
2 CA/1/2023 IN F/FA/ /2020 (SURAT)	FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY
3 R/CA/2260/2024 IN F/MCA/ /2024 (GANDHINAGAR)	FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY
4 CA/1/2024 IN F/FA/10567/2020 (SURAT)	FOR BRINGING HEIRS
5 MCA/2/2023 IN F/FA/ /2020 (SURAT)	FOR RESTORATION
6 CA/2/2024 IN F/FA/ /2020 (SURAT)	FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY

Screenshot from causelist of Gujarat High Court

FOR ADMISSION	
3) Tr.P. /2023 Petition u/s. of Cr.P.C. 1973 transfer of Cr.Misc. 476 of 2022 along with Cr. Misc (Int) 478 of 2022 from the court of Ld. Judge, Family Court, Agartala, West Tripura to the Court of Ld. Judge, Family Court, Dharmanagar, North Tripura. Written objection filed. The Member Secretary, Tripura State Legal Services Authority, Agartala has submitted report. Lastly listed on 29.02.2024 before the Hon'ble Court No. 1 (S/B).	Vs
4) WP(C)/ 2023 Matter related to appointment to the post of PA-II(jr. Grade Stenographer).Counter Affidavit filed by Respondents no. 2,3 & 4. Rejoinder filed. Counter not filed by respondent no. 5 Lastly listed on 09.02.2024 in SBI.	Vs
5) Tr. /2024 Section 24(1) (b) (ii) of the Civil Procedure Code 1908, LA 01 of 2024 Stay Petition, notice issued upon sole respondent, notice	Vs

Screenshot from causelist of Tripura High Court mentioning background of cases

APPELLANT:	
301 WA / 2023	
Filing Mode: ONLINE IN WP(C) / 2012	Vs
	-R1
	-R1
	-R1
	-R1

Screenshot from causelist of Kerala High Court

REMARK : ==AS PER COURT ORDER DT. 30/03/2023 NOTICE IS ISSUED TO THE RESPONDENT NO. 1== Praecepte dated : 06/12/2023 == Adj. from : 17/01/2024 == Adj. from : 31/01/2024 ==Praecepte dated : 16/04/2023.== Adj. from : 29/04/2024 == Adj. from : 06/05/2024 ==
6. PIL/ /2024 [Civil] KOLHAPUR Versus
REMARK : Note : 1) Affidavit in reply on behalf of respondent nos. 1

Screenshot from causelist of Bombay High Court

32 CRLP/ /2024 GORAKHPUR Notice no:2024/	vs	State of UP AND 3 OTHERS
Crime No.- , Police St.- KOTWALI		, District- GORAKHPUR
-Details of Cases filed earlier with same Police Station,Crime No. & District (Subject to further verification by Section from original Records):		
ABAIL/ /2024, Title- vs State of U.P. AND ANOTHER, Status-Disposed, Police St.-KOTWALI		
BAIL/ /2024, Title- vs State of UP, Status-Pending, Police St.-KOTWALI		

Screenshot from causelist of Allahabad High Court

²⁷ Allahabad HC, Gujarat HC, Jharkhand HC, Karnataka HC, Madhya Pradesh HC, Bombay HC, Kerala HC, Telangana HC, Tripura HC



Marking names of lawyers separately and including their contact information

The Supreme Court and Karnataka High Court, although not consistently in all cases and parties, marks the names of lawyers according to the parties they represent in causelists.

PRELIMINARY HEARING (READY IN NOTICE)

4	WP [REDACTED] /2023 (AT 11:00 AM) (GREEN BENCH) (FOR ORDERS) (DATE)	(GM, MM_S)	PET: M/S. P. [REDACTED]	RES: STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS [REDACTED] FOR R1 & R2 [REDACTED] FOR R3
Connected With				
4.1	WP [REDACTED] /2023 (GREEN BENCH)	(GM, MM_S)	PET: M/S. P. [REDACTED]	RES: STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS [REDACTED] FOR R1 & R2 [REDACTED] FOR R3

Screenshot from causelist of Karnataka High Court

The Delhi High Court provides contact numbers of lawyers involved in the case, which fellow lawyers find beneficial for efficiently accessing contact information to serve document copies, coordinate appearances, and more. This eliminates the need to spend time searching for numbers through other lawyers or alternative methods. While privacy concerns are important, it's worth noting that the contact details of all lawyers registered with the local bar are already in the public domain, available in contact directories. Some courts²⁸ also provide firm names.

9	W.P.(C)-5026/2023	MS. V/s [REDACTED]		
OTHER DETAILS OF ADVOCATES:				
[REDACTED] @GMAIL.COM, [REDACTED] @GMAIL.COM)(99 [REDACTED] 826)(PETITIONER) [REDACTED] (DEL [REDACTED] C@ [REDACTED] IN)(9 [REDACTED] 50)(RESPONDENT)				
10	W.P.(C)- [REDACTED] /2024 CM APPL. [REDACTED] /2024 WITH W.P.(C) [REDACTED] /2024 W.P.(C) [REDACTED] /2024	V/s [REDACTED]		
OTHER DETAILS OF ADVOCATES:				
[REDACTED] @ [REDACTED] .COM)(965 [REDACTED] '57)(PETITIONER) D(D [REDACTED] .HC@ [REDACTED] .GOV.IN)(901 [REDACTED] 0)(RESPONDENT) DELHI DCIT JUDICIAL HC([REDACTED] :@ [REDACTED] X.GOV.IN)(901 [REDACTED])(RESPONDENT)				

Screenshot from causelist of Delhi High Court showing contact details of lawyers

BUY BACK SCHEME

AND WMP [REDACTED] ?/2019	Direction VS [REDACTED] NI [REDACTED] AND ASSOCIATES ----- OTHERS.
AND WMP [REDACTED] ?/2024	Direction VS [REDACTED] AND 7 [REDACTED] LEGAL [REDACTED] MS/[REDACTED] 5/2006 ----- OTHERS.

Screenshot from causelist of Madras High Court showing firm names

²⁸ Supreme Court, Bombay HC, Delhi HC, Madras HC



Providing varied formats for causelists

While most courts provide their causelists in PDF format, some also offer them in txt/HTML²⁹, and Excel³⁰ formats, increasing accessibility and usability.



Making causelists web-accessibility compliant

The Delhi High Court has made its causelists web-accessibility compliant,³¹ enabling blind and visually-impaired people to use screen-reader (text-to-speech) software to access the causelists. While most courts have provided the option of usage of screen readers to be used by persons with disabilities on their websites, they cannot be functionally used in a way as the pages are not designed in a way which allows for easy navigation using screen readers. The Delhi High Court has made its causelists web-accessibility compliant, enabling persons to use screen-reader (text-to-speech) software to access the causelists. This additional step has been taken by the Delhi High Court by having the causelists in tabular format and other relevant technical changes in the backend.

In order to enable people with visual impairments access the website using assistive technologies, such as screen readers, the information on the website is accessible with different screen readers, such as JAWS, Thunder, Hal, Supernova and Window-Eyes. Following table lists the information about different screen readers:

S.No	Screen Reader	Website	Free / Commercial
1.	Window-Eyes	http://www.gwmicro.com/Window-Eyes/	Commercial
2.	Supernova	http://www.yourdolphin.co.uk/productdetail.asp?id=	Commercial
3.	JAWS	http://www.freedomsscientific.com	Commercial
4.	Hal	http://www.yourdolphin.co.uk/productdetail.asp?id=	Commercial
5.	Thunder	http://www.screenreader.net/index.php?pageid=2	Free
6.	System Access To Go	http://www.satogo.com/	Free
7.	Non Visual Desktop Access (NVDA)	http://www.nvda-project.org/	Free
8.	Windows narrator(windows only)	http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/windowsxp	Free
9.	Window-Eyes	http://www.gwmicro.com/Window-Eyes/	Commercial
10.	Supernova	http://www.yourdolphin.co.uk/productdetail.asp?id=	Commercial

Screenshot from website of Delhi High Court

²⁹ Bombay HC, Chhattisgarh HC, Gujarat HC, Himachal Pradesh HC, Karnataka HC, Madhya Pradesh HC, Punjab & Haryana HC, Patna HC

³⁰ Chhattisgarh HC

³¹ The Hindu. 2023. 'Delhi HC launches cause list accessible to visually impaired people'.16 August



Providing an overview of cases for the day

The Gujarat High Court contains an overview of cases listed in its court for a day, showing the number of cases listed, which might be useful for persons appearing in court as well as for any legal analysis.

HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT						
COMPLETE CAUSELIST FOR 28th JUNE 2024						
GENERATED ON THU JUN 27 19:14:02 IST 2024						
TABLE OF CONTENTS						
SR.NO	CORAM	TOTAL SR. NOS. NOTIFIED		CONNECTED MATTERS		TOTAL
		CASES	I.A.S	CASES	I.A.S	
1	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE	5	1	1	2	9
2	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PRANAV TRIVEDI	71	1	16	14	102
3	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL	83	1	2	4	90
4	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BIREN VAISHNAV HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE	1	8	0	0	9
5	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BIREN VAISHNAV HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE NISHA M. THAKORE	28	11	30	37	106
6	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BIREN VAISHNAV HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN M. DESAI	2	0	2	0	4
7	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.Y. KOGJE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SAMIR J. DAVE	54	1	0	3	58
8	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.Y. KOGJE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HASMUKH D. SUTHAR	0	1	0	0	1
9	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.Y. KOGJE	20	7	0	0	27
10	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. SUPEHIA HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE MAUNA M. BHATT	20	2	4	10	36
11	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. SUPEHIA	2	1	0	0	3
12	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE UMESH A. TRIVEDI HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE CHEEKATI MANAVENDRANATH ROY	101	1	7	0	109
13	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE UMESH A. TRIVEDI	0	1	0	0	1
14	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BHARGAV D. KARIA HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NIRAL R. MEHTA	115	0	48	26	189
15	HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE SANGEETA K. VISHEN HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE NISHA M. THAKORE	1	0	0	0	1
16	HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE SANGEETA K. VISHEN	312	10	15	31	368
17	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ILESH J. VORA HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE VIMAL K. VYAS	113	39	6	7	165
18	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ILESH J. VORA	25	3	2	1	31
19	HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE GITA GOPI	185	7	3	9	204
20	HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE VAIBHAVI D. NANAVATI	282	12	46	37	377
21	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NIRZAR S. DESAI	339	7	0	8	354
22	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NIKHIL S. KARIEL	209	12	38	37	296
23	HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE MAUNA M. BHATT	53	0	11	4	68
24	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SAMIR J. DAVE	14	2	0	0	16
25	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HEMANT M. PRACHCHHAK	101	1	45	10	157
26	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP N. BHATT	188	23	44	31	286
27	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DIVYESH A. JOSHI	2	0	0	0	2
28	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE	262	3	36	20	321
29	HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE NISHA M. THAKORE	25	0	3	0	28
30	HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE S.V. PINTO	76	20	5	4	105
31	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HASMUKH D. SUTHAR	200	2	39	12	253
32	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE J. C. DOSHI	279	5	15	89	388
33	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M. R. MENGDEY	201	12	3	1	217
34	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DIVYESH A. JOSHI	71	2	7	3	83
35	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN M. DESAI	258	28	33	68	387
36	HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE M. K. THAKKER	114	1	44	6	165
37	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE VIMAL K. VYAS	21	1	0	2	24
38	HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PRANAV TRIVEDI	29	1	17	3	50
39	REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL)	134	0	0	3	137
40	REGISTRAR COURT 1	211	18	9	28	266
TOTAL		4207	245	531	510	5493

Screenshot from causelist of Gujarat High Court



Providing Details of Live Streaming

In cases where livestreaming of cases is an option, the causelist itself indicates this, making the information more accessible.³² Gujarat High Court has a livestreaming board on its website. By clicking on the court number the user will be led to the page where they can watch live streamed proceedings.

³²Chhattisgarh HC

FOR ORDERS [ON OFFICE NOTES]		
1. CRA/ /2024 (Live Stream - Yes)	VS. STATE OF CHHATTISGARH	A.G.
* [FOR ORDERS ON DEFAULT NO. 01 SOME PORTION OF PAGE NO. 07 IS EASILY NOT READABLE . AS PER OFFICE NOTES DATE 14.05.2024 & NOTE OF ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL) DATED 20.06.2024.] [MAHASAMUND]		
2. CRMP/ /2024 (Live Stream - No)	STATE OF CHHATTISGARH VS.	A.G.
* [FOR ORDERS ON DEFAULT NO. 01 AFFIDAVIT NOT FILED IN SUPPORT OF DELAY APPLICATION & ALSO MENTIONED IN INDEX & DEFAULT NO. 05 COPY OF STATEMENTS OF P.W.S NOT FILED WITH THE CASE. (2) COPY OF OTHER RELEVANT EXHIBITED DOCUMENT NOT FILED . AS PER OFFICE NOTES DATE 03.05.2024 & NOTE OF ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL) DATED 13.06.2024.] [BEMETARA]		
3. CRMP/ 2024 (Live Stream - Yes)	OTHER VS. HOME SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT	

Screenshot from causelist of Chhattisgarh High Court list indicating whether live streaming facility is available for cases



Screenshot of live streaming board of Gujarat High Court



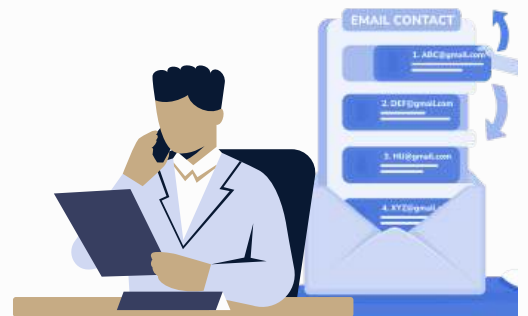
Making provision for archiving causelists

While many courts typically maintain causelists spanning only a few days or months, certain³³ courts archive older causelists, enabling access to older lists for reference and research purposes.



Making details of court staff available

For ease of access and communication, the names and contact details of court masters have been provided as part of causelists by some courts.³⁴



³³ Gujarat HC, Kerala HC, Punjab and Haryana HC, Patna HC, Karnataka HC, Bombay HC, Manipur HC, Meghalaya HC, Orissa HC, Tripura
³⁴ Bihar HC, Orissa HC



15. Clearly indicating the time of causelist publication and generation

Some courts³⁵ publish the time of causelist publication, making it clear to all stakeholders when they were uploaded. The Uttarakhand High Court and the Supreme Court also mention the time at which it was generated, reducing the chances of tampering.

COURT HALL NO.	HON'BLE BENCH	CORAM	MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING ID	PASS-CODE	VC LINK	STATUS	UPLOADED DATE	PDF
1	DB-I	DIVISION BENCH-I	444-386-986-810	dIMjzd	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 03:40	VIEW PDF
19	DB-II	DIVISION BENCH-II	410-620-668-797	7vRz5v	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 03:53	VIEW PDF
17	DB-III	DIVISION BENCH-III	487-391-422-387	JbkJBi	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 03:56	VIEW PDF
22	DB-IV	DIVISION BENCH-IV	429-445-715-067	Dq79C4	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 03:21	VIEW PDF
11	DB-V	DIVISION BENCH-V	467-239-183-348	oov4Jf	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 03:34	VIEW PDF
8	N J S J	THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE NINALA JAYASURYA	479-857-723-549	XdYXgP	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 03:33	VIEW PDF
2	B K M J	THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE B KRISHNA MOHAN	499-473-133-691	y3fTC	VC LINK	UPLOADED	27-06-2024 04:07	VIEW PDF

Screenshot from model advance causelist page of Andhra Pradesh High Court showing time of publication

No ↑↓	Bench ↑↓	Court/Room ↑↓	Cause List Type ↑↓	Time ↑↓	Actions ↑↓	Published Time ↑↓
1	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. A.J.DESAI,HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN	1 / 1	Separate List 1	10:15 AM	View	27-06-2024 03:31 PM
2	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. A.J.DESAI,HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN	1 / 1	Separate List 5	10:15 AM	View	27-06-2024 03:28 PM
3	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. A.J.DESAI,HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN	1 / 1	Part Two	10:15 AM	View	27-06-2024 05:22 PM
4	HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. A.J.DESAI,HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN	1 / 1	Daily List	10:15 AM	View	27-06-2024 03:32 PM

Screenshot from causelist page of Kerala High Court showing time of publication

37 CrI.A. No. [REDACTED] /2014 II-C

Versus
STATE OF DELHI

[IA No. \[REDACTED\] /2013 - PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES](#)

NEW DELHI
27-06-2024 18:59:09

ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court showing time of generation of causelist

³⁵ Andhra Pradesh HC, Kerala HC, Karnataka HC, Orissa HC, Telangana HC, Uttarakhand HC



Mentioning the order in which lists will be taken up

The High Court of Bombay at Goa mentions the order in which multiple lists before it will be taken up by the judges, avoiding confusion and saving time for lawyers.



HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA

COURT NO. 2

DAILY - MAIN CAUSELIST

FOR WEDNESDAY, THE 7TH JUNE, 2023 AT 10:30 AM

HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE M. S. SONAK AND HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE BHARAT P. DESHPANDE

1. MENTIONING IS PERMISSIBLE ONLY IN MORNING SESSION AT 10:30 A.M.
2. SUPPLEMENTARY BOARD WILL BE TAKEN UP BEFORE REGULAR BOARD
3. NO SOONER THE ADMISSION/ORDER BOARD IS OVER THE DIVISION BENCH WILL TAKE UP FINAL HEARING MATTERS/BOARD
4. THE FINAL DISPOSAL MATTERS WILL BE TAKEN UP ON WEDNESDAY EXCEPT SPECIFIC DATE GIVEN MATTERS.

Screenshot from causelist of Bombay High Court at Goa



Best Practices Followed Outside India



In some foreign jurisdictions, courts have adopted progressive features in their causelists, including specifying the hearing's purpose, key legal questions, scheduled times, live updates, interactive options, and advanced search tools. These features significantly enhance transparency and accessibility for stakeholders involved in legal proceedings. This chapter aims to highlight these practices as potential models for Indian courts.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge the differences between foreign jurisdictions and the Indian legal system. Indian courts handle a much larger caseload, which makes it difficult to replicate certain features like providing precise hearing times. While adopting these practices is beneficial, it requires a tailored approach that addresses the specific complexities of the Indian judicial system. Implementation must be strategic, considering various factors to ensure alignment with India's goals of transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in legal proceedings.

This chapter examines international court practices that improve transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in legal proceedings. Examples include:

1. **New Zealand**- The causelist of the New Zealand High Court provides an approximate time at which a case will be heard as well as the purpose of the hearing.

THE HIGH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND TE KŌTI MATUA O AOTEAROA	
COURT BUSINESS	
HIGH COURT AUCKLAND TE KŌTI MATUA O TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU	
Thursday the 27th day of June 2024	
Duty Judge: <u>THE HON. JUSTICE CAMPBELL</u>	
IN CHAMBERS 9.00am CIV2023- [REDACTED]	BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE CAMPBELL [REDACTED] v [REDACTED] Case management telephone conference
IN CHAMBERS 9.30am CIV2023-4 [REDACTED]	BEFORE ASSOCIATE JUDGE SUSSOCK [REDACTED] v [REDACTED] For directions for any IA filed
10:30am CIV2023- [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] v [REDACTED] HARDING For directions for interlocutory application
11:15am CIV2023- [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] v [REDACTED] First Case management Teleconference
12:00pm CIV2023- [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] v [REDACTED] For further directions

Screenshot from causelist of New Zealand High Court

2. **Norway** - The causelist for the Supreme Court of Norway includes a case summary and details about the specific legal issue the court will deal with that day.

Next hearings	
<p><u>Tuesday 13 August</u></p> <p>A father's duty to pay child support when the child's legal residence is with him. Whether the decision must be based on legal or factual residence. Children law.</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 August</u></p> <p>Occupational injury at the home office. Whether a doctor who was injured on home duty was covered by occupational injury insurance. Section 13-6 of the National Insurance Act.</p>
<p><u>Thursday 15 August</u></p> <p>Sentence for attempted homicide with a gun in a pedestrian tunnel near Stovner mall in Oslo, and sentence for aggravated illegal carrying of weapons in a public place. Question of stricter penalties.</p>	<p><u>Friday 16 August</u></p> <p>Penalty for accounting violation. Whether the violation is aggravated, and sentence. Sections 392 and 393 of the Penal Code.</p>



Supreme Court of Norway > Hearings > Next hearings > Tuesday 21 March

Tuesday 21 March

Control with inmates' telephone calls while serving time in Ullersmo prison. Possible violation of Article 8 of the ECHR and Article 102 of the Constitution.

The First Division of the Supreme Court will hear on

Thursday 21 March 2024 at 09.00 - 14.30

case no. 23- [redacted] -HRET, criminal case, appeal against judgment:

A

[redacted]

v.

[redacted]

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court of Norway

3. New South Wales, Australia - For the district courts, an interactive causelist of matters listed across various levels of district courts is available. It shows the type of case, court name, and type of listing/purpose of hearing. Case numbers also provide a hyperlink to the case status. Additionally, there is a filter and search option. The Supreme Court causelist provides an approximate time of hearing.

Search NSW Court and Tribunal Lists ⁱ

Enter Case Number (e.g. 2014/00001234 or 201400001234) OR Party Name (e.g. John citizen)

Search

Fewer search options [▲]

Date	Jurisdiction	Court	Presiding officer	Listing type	Location
Today [▼]	All [▼]	All [▼]	All [▼]	All [▼]	All [▼]

[Clear all filters and results](#)

Displaying 1 - 30 of 1647 results (last refreshed at 1:49pm 28 Jun 2024)

[Export results as CSV](#) [Print current page](#)

Date	Time	Case no.	Case name	Jurisdiction	Court	Listing type	Presiding officer	Location	Court room	List no.
28 Jun	7:00 am	2024/	BAKER	Criminal	Local Court	Mention (Police)	Unassigned	Port Macquarie	Parramatta LC Crt 15 Parramatta	-
28 Jun	9:00 am	2022/	MORRIS	Criminal	District Court	Hearing	Judge	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour Crt 4 Coffs Harbour	-
28 Jun	9:00 am	2022/	King and Strickland	Criminal	LEC	Class 5 Directions Hearing		Land and Environment Court Sydney	Land and Environment Court, Sydney Court 13A	-

Screenshot from causelist webpage for district courts of New South Wales, Australia

<p>Registrar K Jones 1 Directions (Court of Appeal) 2024/0000000000 Summons - Leave to Appeal: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Court of Appeal SUPREME COURT New South Wales</p>	<p>COURT 12B QUEENS SQUARE SYDNEY 2:30 PM Monday, July 01, 2024 Law Courts Building Court 13A Queens Square Sydney</p>
<p>Justice J Ward President of the Court of Appeal Justice H Wilson Justice H Dhanji 1 Judgment 2021/00221520 Notice to Appeal [REDACTED] v [REDACTED] 2 Hearing 2020/00171780 Notice to Appeal [REDACTED] v [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Court of Criminal Appeal</p>	<p>10:15 AM 10:15 AM</p>
<p>Justice I Harrison Chief Judge at Common Law 1 Hearing 2023/0000000000</p>	<p>Common Law Division - Civil</p>	<p>Law Courts Building Court 10C Queens Square Sydney 10:00 AM</p>
<p>Justice S Campbell 1 Hearing 2024/0000000000 v [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Common Law Division - Civil</p>	<p>Law Courts Building Court 9D Queens Square Sydney 10:00 AM</p>
<p>Justice N Adams 1 Hearing 2024/0000000000</p>	<p>Common Law Division - Civil</p>	<p>Law Courts Building Court 9B Queens Square Sydney 10:00 AM</p>

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia

4. Bangladesh - The Supreme Court of Bangladesh has a live causelist/display board which dynamically provides details of what transpired during the hearing, such as passovers, adjournments, and summaries of orders passed.

Cause List of COURT NO. 1				
Date : 07/11/2023		Show		Print without Result Print with Results Court List
A) Bench : Justice Obaidul Hassan, Justice Borhanuddin, Justice M. Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md. Ashfaquul Islam, Justice Md. Abu Zafor Siddique				
For Order				
Sl	Case Number	Parties	Advocate	Result
1	Criminal Petition [REDACTED] /2023	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Md. Helal Amin Mr. Mohammad Ali Azam	Stand over for 3 months.
For Hearing				
Sl	Case Number	Parties	Advocate	Result
2	Civil Appeal 2015 Summons	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam Mrs. Sufia Khatun Mr. Bivash Chandra Biswas	3 months for default order.
3	Civil Appeal [REDACTED] /2019 Appl. for restoration	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Mr. Md. Badrul Islam Mrs. Sufia Khatun	Restored.
4	Civil Appeal 2021 Appl. for restoration	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Mr. Md. Serajur Rahman Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam	Restored.
5	Civil Appeal [REDACTED] /2023 Appl. for status-quo	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Syed Mahbubar Rahman Mr. Mohammad Ali Azam	Not this week.
6	Civil Petition [REDACTED] /2023	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Mr. Mohammad Ali Azam Mr. A. K. M. Nurul Alam	Disposed of.
7	Civil Appeal [REDACTED] /2019 With C. P. 1300/20, C. P. 1752/21, 2429/22, C. R. P. 225/20, C. R. P. 1-12/14 Appl. for individual hearing	[REDACTED] vs [REDACTED]	Mrs. Shirin Afroz Syed Mahbubar Rahman	Adjourned to 09.11.2023

Screenshot from causelist Supreme Court of Bangladesh

5. Uganda - The causelist of the High Court of Uganda shows the purpose of the hearing, case type, the specific claim being made, and the time of the hearing.

Republic of Uganda
Causelist

Court Level: High Court
Court: High Court Kampala
Division/Type: Land
Sitting Date/Time from 20-Nov-2023 to 24-Nov-2023

Court Sitting Day / Justice/Judge/Magistrate (JD) / Court Sitting	Case Number	Case Category	Main Party 1	Main Party 2	Claim	Court Sitting Type	Room
MONDAY, 20-NOV-2023							
Hon. Lady Justice							
1. 10:00 AM	HCT 0031	Civil Suit			PERMANENT INJUNCTION, GENERAL DAMAGES	Hearing	Chambers F 5 - Land Division
2. 11:30 AM	HCT 0776	Civil Suit				Summons for Directions	Assistant Registrar's Chambers
Hon. Mr. Tadeo							
1. 09:30 AM	HCT 0524	Civil Suit			A declaration, An order, A permanent injunction and other	Summons for Directions	Assistant Registrar's Chambers
2. 10:45 AM	HCT 2829	Civil Suit			DECLARATIONS, (P INJUNCTION, DEMOLITION ORDERS, G DAMAGES, COSTS	For Mention	Assistant Registrar's Chambers
3. 10:45 AM	HCT 0220	Civil Suit			PLAINT, FRAUD, EXEMPLARY, PUNITIVE AND GENERAL DAMAGES IN TRESPASS, PERMANENT INJUNCTION AND COSTS Claim Type:	For Mention	Assistant Registrar's Chambers
4. 12:00 PM	HCT 0694	Civil Suit			PERMANENT INJUNCTION, GENERAL DAMAGES, COSTS	Judgment/Ruling Pronouncement	Chambers F 1 - Land Division
5. 12:30 PM	HCT 0115	Civil Suit			Declaration, Order for cancellation, permanent injunction, damages and costs	For Mention	Assistant Registrar's Chambers

Report generated on 17 Nov 2023 05:48 PM (UTC +3) 1 of 43

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court of High Court of Uganda

6. United Kingdom - Causelists for the Royal Court of Justice provide an approximate time of hearing. In cases where the time of hearing is not provided, it states that the case will not be heard before a certain time, adding a layer of certainty. It also shows the type and purpose of the hearing. In some cases, additional remarks about documents available and applicable law are mentioned.

Judge	Time	Venue	Case details
Before MR JUSTICE	10:30 AM	COURT 2	AC-2022-LON- OSSC COURT IN GDANSK (POLAND)
Before MR JUSTICE	Not Before 12:00 PM	COURT 2	AC-2022-LON- BRINI OF TARGOVISTE (ROMANIA)
Before MR JUSTICE	10:15 AM	COURT 1	AC-2022-LON- ORSC COURT (HUNGARY)
Before MR JUSTICE	10:15 AM	COURT 1	AC-2023-LON- PADU COURT OF LAW (ROMANIA)
Before MR JUSTICE	10:15 AM	COURT 1	AC-2023-LON- KOCE ALBANIA
Before MR JUSTICE	11:15 AM	COURT 1	AC-2023-LON- KRAW POLISH JUDICIAL AUTHOR

Screenshot from causelist of Royal Court of Justice, United Kingdom

7. Mauritius- The Mauritius Supreme Court’s causelist shows the purpose and time of hearing.

7. Mauritius - The Mauritius Supreme Court’s causelist shows the purpose and time of hearing.

1

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MAURITIUS

ON MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2023

COURT NO 4 (8TH FLOOR) **BEFORE HON. S. BEEKARRY-SUNASSEE, JUDGE**

██████████ (1/70/22) v.s ██████████ **Disposal (at 10.00 am)**

ON WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023

MEDIATION ROOM NO 1 (6TH FLOOR) **BEFORE HON. S. B. A HAMUTH-LAULLOO, JUDGE**

██████████ /14) ██████████ v.s ██████████ **Mention (at 10.30 am)**
██████████ (Bis) ██████████ v.s ██████████ **Mention (at 10.45 am)**
██████████ /16) ██████████ v.s ██████████ **Mention (at 11.00 am)**
SC/COM/ PWS/1 / 2018

ON MONDAY 04 DECEMBER 2023

IN CHAMBERS (COURT NO. 1- 10TH FLOOR)

BEFORE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE

Urgent Motions – at 10.00 a.m

Screenshot from causelist of Mauritius Supreme Court

8. Singapore- The court’s causelist shows the purpose of hearing and stage initially. Clicking on the case takes you to another page which displays the nature of the case and the application along with the specific purpose of hearing. It also has helpful accessibility features such as allowing the hearing to be added to your calendar and providing information about rules and etiquette to be followed as a visitor to the court. There is also a filtered search that allows filtering by court, law firm, judge, and hearing type.

The screenshot displays three case entries from the Singapore Supreme Court causelist. Each entry includes the date and time (28 JUN 2024, 9:00 AM), the case number (e.g., HC/OC 657/2023), and the hearing type (e.g., OA & Summons - General). The venue is listed as Supreme Court, Chamber 2-6. The judge/judicial officer is identified as Judge/Judicial officer. The first entry is for a General hearing, while the second and third are for Mortgage Action hearings. The names of the parties are redacted with grey boxes.

Screenshot from causelist webpage of Singapore Supreme Court

Case Ng Jui Ching Kong v Lee, Millie

HC/OC [REDACTED] /2023 (HC/SUM [REDACTED] /2024)

Note

Hearing schedules are subject to change at the court's discretion.

Hearings that are conducted in chambers or *in camera* are **not** open to the public. Learn more about how to attend a court session and what to do when you visit the courts in our [guide to attending court](#).

Going to court for the first time?

Know what to expect, including what you should wear and do.

Learn about court etiquette and dress code.



Date

28 Jun 2024, Friday
9:00 AM

[Add to calendar](#)

Note: This is a one-time add. Any change of the schedule will not be automatically updated.



Venue

Supreme Court, Chamber 2-6

Hearing details

Nature of case

[REDACTED]

Hearing type

OA & Summons - General

Nature of application

Summons for Production of Documents
(others)

Judge/Judicial officer

Assistant Registrar

Parties involved

Applicant

[REDACTED]

Representation

[REDACTED]

Respondent

[REDACTED]

Representation

[REDACTED]

Screenshot from case details page of Singapore Supreme Court

9. Pakistan- Specific instructions such as particular courts not entertaining adjournments, type of case, and details of lawyers appearing for both parties along with their enrollment numbers are provided in the Supreme Court's causelist.

SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD

FINAL CAUSE LIST 47 of 2023

From 27-Nov-2023 To 01-Dec-2023, at 9:00 AM

For fixation and result of cases, please visit www.supremecourt.gov.pk

The following cases are fixed for hearing before the Court at Islamabad during the week commencing 27-Nov-2023 at 9:00 AM or soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court.

(i) No application for adjournment through fax/email will be placed before the Court. If any counsel is unable to appear for any reason, the Advocate-on-Record will be required to argue the case.

(ii) No adjournment on any ground will be granted.

BENCH - I

MR. JUSTICE QAZI FAEZ ISA, HCJ
MR. JUSTICE AMIN-UD-DIN KHAN
MR. JUSTICE ATHAR MINALLAH

Monday, 27-Nov-2023

1	Cr.P. /2023 (Bail After Arrest) [S.302/34 PPC] (S.J.)	@ Sa through , Khyber and another	v. The State	Mr. (Enrl#) (Pesh) Mr. (Enrl#) (Pesh) Advocate General,
2	Cr.P. /2023 (Bail After Arrest) [S. /34 PPC] (S.J.)	liq v. The State A.G. and another		or, AOR (Rwp) (Enrl#) Mr. ar, ASC (Ihd) (Enrl#) Addl. Advocate General Mr. ua, AORRwp (Enrl#) Mr. ASC (Pesh) (Enrl#)
3	C.A. /2018 (Suit for Declaration / Ownership) (S.J.) (Ch.O.)	Company (Pvt) Limited through Chief Executive & others	and Mr. han, AOR (Pesh)	(Enrl#) Mr. , ASC (Pesh) (Enrl#) Mr. , AOR (Pesh)

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court of Pakistan

10. Nigeria- The causelist provides the case type and particulars related to the case, such as recently filed applications. It also has a search option.

Search by Date From: To: Search by SCNO

#	Date	Case Type	ScNo	Party	Particulars	Court
1	27-06-2024	Criminal Motion	SC/CR/ /2022	tyo (Appellant/Applicant) Vs The (Respondent)	Application filed on 19/5/2022 for an order enlarging the time within which the Appellant/Applicant may seek leave to appeal.etc	Panel D
2	27-06-2024	Criminal Motion	SC/CR/ /2022	,emang (Appellant/Applicant) Vs Federal Republic of (Respondent)	1. Application filed on 13/2/2022 for an order of this Court admitting the Appellant/Applicant, now convicted to bail 2. Application filed on 6/10/2022 for an order of this Hon. Court granting leave by extending the time within which the Appellant/Applicant may file serve his brief of argument	Panel D
3	27-06-2024	Criminal Motion	SC/CR/ /2022	ppellant/Applicant) Vs The State (Respondent)	Application filed on 23/6/2022 for an order of this Hon. Court extending the time within which the Appellant/Applicant may seek leave to file notice of appeal. etc	Panel D
4	27-06-2024	Criminal Motion	SC/CR/ /2022	Federal Republic of (Appellant/Applicant) Vs Chike Obiakor (Respondent)	Application filed on 22/8/2022 for an order of this Hon. Court extending the time within which the Appellant/Applicant may seek leave to file notice of appeal. etc	Panel D
5	27-06-2024	Civil Judgment	SC/CR/ /2023	The State (Appellant/Applicant) Vs (Respondent)	Application filed on 2/5/2023 for an order enlarging the time within which the Appellant/Applicant may file his reply brief of argument.etc	Panel D

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court of Nigeria

11. Kenya- The causelist for the Supreme Court of Kenya provides the link for video-conferencing in the causelist itself, making it easily accessible.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE JUDICIARY

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA
AT NAIROBI
CAUSE LIST AS AT FRIDAY 3RD MAY, 2024

FRIDAY, 10TH MAY 2024
BEFORE: HON. BERNARD KASAVULI (DR) VIRTUAL COURT
LINK: <https://cutt.ly/wwCOTbq2>

09:00 AM
MENTION

1. SCPT/ /2022 vs
2. SCPT/ /2024 vs
3. SCPT/ /2024 vs
4. SCPT/ /2024 vs
5. SCPT/ /2024 vs
6. SCPT/ /2024 vs
7. SCPT/ /2024 vs

Main appeal & Application dated 27th March, 2024

Screenshot from causelist of Supreme Court of Kenya

Components of a Model Causelist

1 Date and time of generation and publication of causelist

2 Court information

3 Name of court master with contact information

4 Hearing date and court sitting time

5 Any specific instructions for the particular court

6 Case number



7 Details of all parties

8 Names of lawyers/law firms with contact information

9 Time at which a particular case or type of case is to be taken up

10 Mode of hearing and details of livestreaming

11 Link for video-conferencing

12 Details about accessibility software



13 Division of cases for judges with multiple portfolios

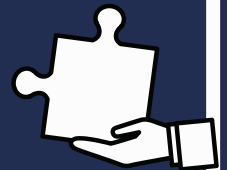
14 Stage/purpose of hearing

15 Notes about cases that will affect how the causelist will move

16 Case details and status to be linked

17 Comprehensive case status information

18 Readability for technology solutions



19 Composite causelist

20 Live causelist

21 Responsible lawyers to be marked in case of government litigation

22 Easy access to information for litigants

23 Archived causelists

24 Including additional relevant case information



This chapter outlines the key components of a model causelist on court websites, with a view to promote transparency, efficiency, and accessibility. By drawing on best practices from Indian and international courts, these components will address the evolving needs of the legal community and stakeholders. An effective causelist should not only schedule court hearings but also offer features that enhance its utility for lawyers, litigants, judges, and the general public. As legal systems evolve, the importance of an informative and user-friendly causelist grows. The following should be included and provided in causelists and court websites to make them effective:

1. Date and time of generation and publication of causelist

The causelist should include the date and time of its generation and publication. A timestamp on causelists is a deterrent against unauthorised modifications by making any subsequent changes evident and traceable. This practice enhances the integrity and transparency of court operations, reassuring litigants and lawyers that the causelist is accurate and up-to-date. Additionally, it helps hold court officials accountable for timely and accurate publication, improving overall efficiency and trust in the judicial system. They should also be released early to enable adequate preparation by litigants and lawyers. Instead of the common practice of releasing causelists the day before, courts could consider adopting advance lists several days ahead. For example, the Supreme Court releases advance lists up to two weeks before the final and supplementary lists with fresh cases or cases that were mentioned for urgent hearings are issued the day prior to hearings. There are some High Courts that also follow this practice of issuing the main list a few days before and thereafter issuing a supplementary list. This proactive approach informs stakeholders about upcoming cases, minimising surprises and allowing ample time for thorough preparation.

2. Court information

Include details regarding the location of the court and the name of the presiding judge, ideally in standardised format across courtrooms to support technological interventions.

3. Name of court master with contact information

Including the Court Master's name and contact details ensures efficient communication and quick resolution of administrative issues during hearings.

4. Hearing date and court sitting time

The date of the causelist and the approximate time at which the bench will commence proceedings in specific cases must be mentioned.

5. Any specific instructions for the particular court

Any specific instructions for the particular court: Specific court directives may be mentioned so that all parties are aware of unique requirements or procedures. For instance, the causelist could specify whether adjournments will be granted, especially in older matters where they may not be allowed or whether there is a specific format only in which requests for adjournments can be submitted.

6. Case number

The case number serves as a unique identifier, facilitating precise tracking and referencing within a busy court docket. This number is crucial for court staff, lawyers, and judges to quickly locate and manage the case's records and proceedings.

7. Details of all parties

Names of all parties, both petitioners and respondents, should be provided in the causelist

instead of only naming the first party. This practice promotes complete transparency and informs stakeholders about all involved parties. It also facilitates better technological interventions, such as tracking cases for individuals or companies.

8. Names of lawyers/law firms with contact information

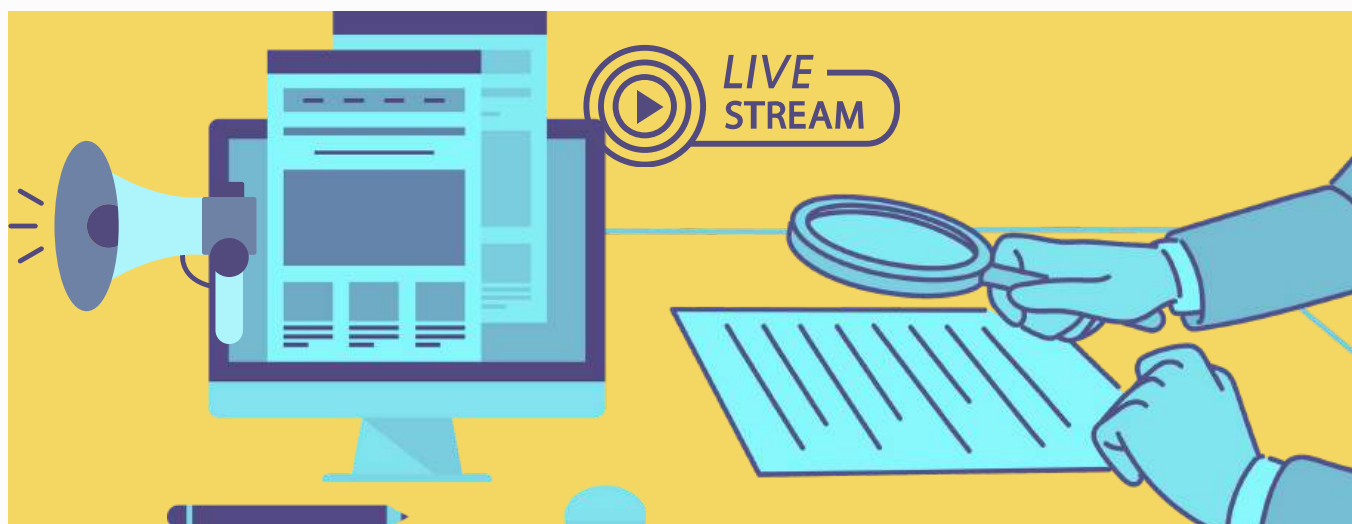
The causelist should clearly list all lawyers or law firms representing each party, along with their contact information (phone number, email address). This ensures easy identification of representatives and facilitates efficient communication and coordination, saving valuable time typically spent searching for this information.

9. Time at which a particular case or type of case is to be taken up

Specifying scheduled times for each case ensures an organised court calendar, optimising resource use and accommodating lawyers' and litigants' schedules. It minimises waiting and provides clarity throughout the day. Additionally, indicating if a matter is prioritised for a specific time or session adds further structure. Even if exact times are not feasible, dividing hearing hours into slots such as forenoon and afternoon, or allocating specific slots for a number of cases, can enhance predictability.

10. Mode of hearing and details of livestreaming

The causelist should mention whether cases will be heard online, physically, or in a hybrid format so that the parties and other stakeholders are aware and can attend the hearing accordingly. It can also be indicated in the causelist whether the case will be livestreamed.



11. Link for video-conferencing

Including a link for remote hearings simplifies participant access, enabling prompt joining of virtual court sessions, and ensuring their smooth execution. The causelist should also specify contact details for the court master or another designated person who can assist with any issues with video conferencing. If the hearing is hybrid hearing where some cases are being heard physically and some through video conferencing, that must also be mentioned.

12. Details about accessibility software

Embedding accessibility software in causelists promotes inclusivity and equal access to justice within the legal system. This ensures that all participants, including persons with disabilities, can fully engage in court proceedings. Tools such as screen readers, text-to-speech applications, and adjustable font sizes accommodate a diverse range of needs. Other pages on the court websites such as the display board must also be made accessible.

13. Division of cases for judges with multiple portfolios

Causelists can designate specific days for different case types handled by judges with multiple portfolios. This organised approach allows lawyers and litigants to know in advance when their matters will be heard each week.

14. Stage/purpose of hearing

Describing the case's current stage or the objective of the hearing helps all parties understand the context and expectations for the court session. This allows for better preparation and a smoother process.

15. Notes about cases that will affect how the causelist will move

Any unique case-specific information that could affect the scheduling and movement of cases could be included in the causelist related to that particular court instead of in another location of the court's website/entire causelist. These notes serve as essential reminders for court administrators and judges, enabling them to adapt the causelist as needed based on case-specific circumstances. For example, notices about non-sitting of judges, information about letters being circulated,³⁶ deletions, or cases to be taken up at the beginning of the hearing out of turn should be mentioned in the causelist.

16. Case details and status to be linked

Each case name should be linked to a detailed page containing comprehensive case information, including stage, orders, previous hearings, case type, interlocutory orders, daily orders, connected cases, lower court/appellate cases, etc.

17. Comprehensive case status information

Most courts typically offer basic case status information, including party lists, lawyer details, and posting schedule. However, expanding this to include comprehensive details like prayers sought, lower court references, linked cases, previous listing dates, and reasons for adjournments would greatly benefit all stakeholders. Another valuable addition based on the court's policy could be the automatic generation of the next date of hearing, so that there is no case without a next date of hearing. This would be especially beneficial in courts where orders simply state "list after six weeks," as it provides more certainty and allows the court registry to plan the schedule for that day more effectively. The case status page should also list all parties and advocates.

³⁶ Notice being given in advance that an adjournment will be sought for by one party

However, expanding this to include comprehensive details like prayers sought, lower court references, linked cases, previous listing dates, and reasons for adjournments would greatly benefit all stakeholders. Another valuable addition based on the court's policy could be the automatic generation of the next date of hearing, so that there is no case without a next date of hearing. This would be especially beneficial in courts where orders simply state "list after six weeks," as it provides more certainty and allows the court registry to plan the schedule for that day more effectively. The case status page should also list all parties and advocates.

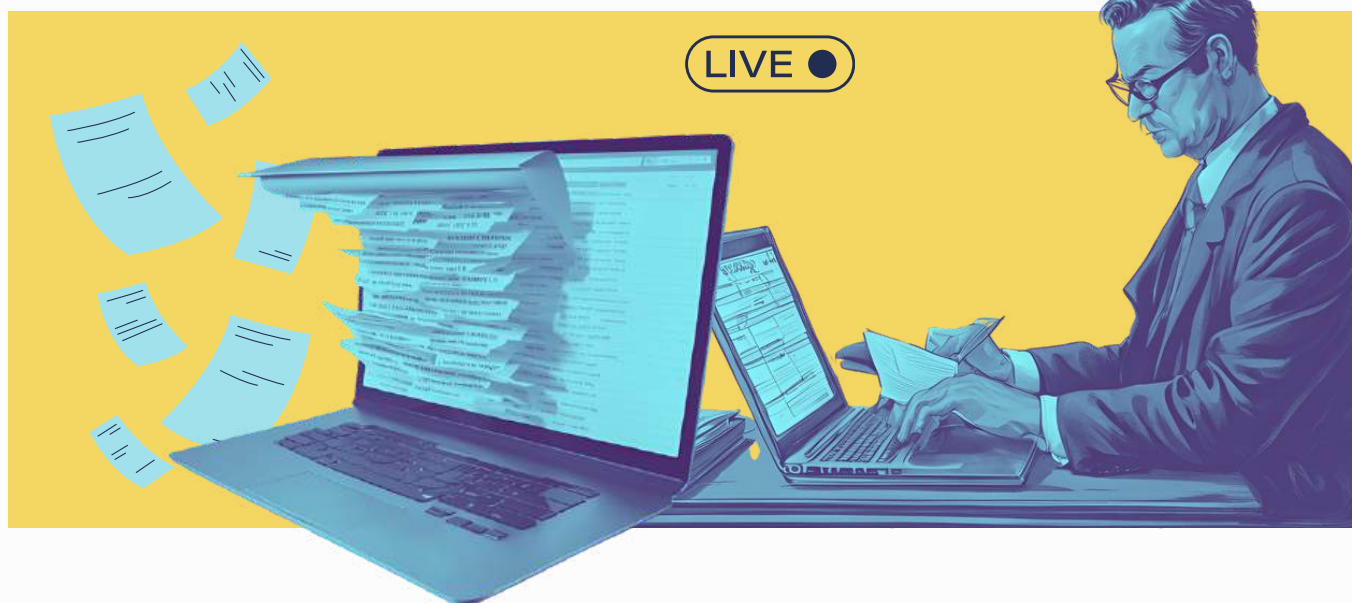
18. Readability for technology solutions

Currently, many causelists are available as PDFs without a clear tabular structure, making it difficult for technological solutions to be developed using these lists. The legal technology industry and research organisations can develop nuanced solutions for alerting litigants, analysing the frequency of hearings, and identifying trends in listing practices if the causelists are designed to allow data extraction. Options to download the information as a .csv file, HTML, or .xls file could be provided.

19. Composite causelist

Publishing a composite causelist, arranged chronologically according to the court's order of hearings, simplifies understanding the sequence of proceedings. This approach is especially useful for benches handling multiple causelists or combinations of single and division bench sittings. Consolidating these lists into one document provides stakeholders with a clearer overview of scheduled proceedings.

20. Live causelist



A live causelist or real-time information updated via the display board would be useful for all stakeholders. For instance, if a case is unlikely to be heard that day (for example, if a letter has been circulated seeking adjournment), it can be marked in the live causelist. This will help others with cases on the same day plan accordingly. The live causelist can also briefly provide updates

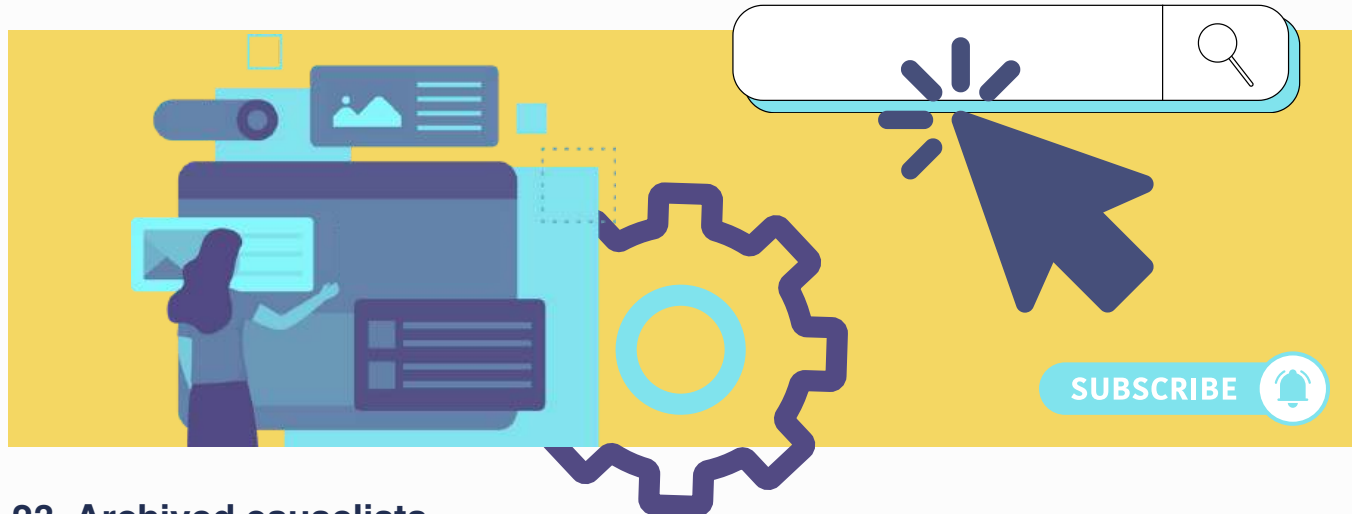
on case status (passed over, adjourned, order passed, etc.), This functionality would allow lawyers in other courts to stay informed about the progress of their cases without needing to be physically present. To make real-time updates practical for court masters, template drop-down options could be integrated into their systems. These predefined options would streamline the process, allowing court masters to quickly and accurately update the status of cases. This system would not only enhance efficiency but also increase transparency in court proceedings, as stakeholders would have immediate access to current and accurate information.

21. Responsible lawyers to be marked in case of government litigation

In court proceedings, adjournments often result from inadequate or improperly executed instructions, especially in cases involving multiple government departments. Timely responses from specific government departments can significantly influence case progress. Therefore, listing the lawyer representing each government party in the causelist would be beneficial. This transparency would help identify responsible individuals amid frequent changes in government lawyers, reducing the need for adjournments and ensuring smoother case proceedings.

22. Easy access to information for litigants

The page on the court website that contains causelists should indicate relevant information that will explain court procedure, such as defining the stages of hearing (as opposed to the case type) found in the causelist. Terms like "for orders," "final hearing," and "office objections" should be clearly explained to help stakeholders understand the causelist better. It could also provide an explanation into the different kinds of lists and how they will be taken up. This page could offer features like "add to calendar," enabling litigants to schedule hearings or "subscribe for Whatsapp/Telegram notification".



23. Archived causelists

Older causelists, which provide access to lists spanning several years, could be made available on the court website for reference, research, and transparency purposes.

24. Including additional relevant case information

Including details such as information on connected cases, the date of the last listing, unresolved objections, procedural remarks or lapses that need correction, parties served, history of adjournments, and background of the case could facilitate preparation, decision-making, and specific actions by all stakeholders involved.

An interactive prototype of a model causelist encompassing the above suggestions has been developed as part of this working paper. Available on <https://daksh.devops-in22labs.com/>

DAKSH Home VC Meeting Links Screen Reader Archived Cause List Start tour Live Cause List/Display board

MODEL CAUSE LIST BY DAKSH

This is a prototype for an interactive and accessible * cause list

Cause List Dashboard

ADVANCE	MAIN	SUPPLEMENTARY	ENTIRE LIST
04.06.2024 05.06.2024 06.06.2024	04.06.2024 05.06.2024 06.06.2024	SUPPL LIST-I 04.06.2024 05.06.2024 06.06.2024	04.06.2024 05.06.2024 06.06.2024
		SUPPL LIST-II 04.06.2024 05.06.2024 06.06.2024	

Cause List Search

Court Room: List Type: Judge Name:
 Party Name: Advocate Name: Date of Hearing:

Short Version Long Version Export

Court Room No. 2

04-06-2024 (10.30AM-1PM) (2PM-4PM)

Court Master: [9875898368](tel:9875898368) | meenakshishesh@gmail.com | VC Link: [Click Here](#)

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE JUSTICE JOYMALYA MANDAL AND HON'BLE FATHIMA KURESHI

1. COURT WILL ASSEMBLE AFTER REFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR 10.30 IS COMPLETED

2. DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH ANNEXED TO THE PLEADINGS, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A TRANSLATED COPY WHICH SHALL BE CERTIFIED AS TRUE BY THE ADVOCATE-ON-RECORD CONCERNED.

ITEM NO.	CASE NO.	CASE TYPE	PETITIONER(S)	RESPONDENT(S)	TIME/SESSION & MODE OF HEARING	ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER	ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT
MAIN LIST FOR ADMISSION							
1	CRL/154/2019	COMPOUNDING PETITION-BREACH OF TRUST	1. Anirbhan Dutta 2. Sikhander@D K Das	State	Forenoon Video Conferencing Livestreaming	▶ N Ahmed advahmed@hotmail.com 98456363	▶ Sayak Misra smisra@gmail.com 989525278
2	CRP/41/2021	CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION(SECTION 125 CRPC)	Gaurav Bhattacharya@Akram	State	Forenoon Hybrid	▶ Saumil Bar saumilbar@gmail.com 7848395839	▶ Amitabh Nandy anandy@gmail.com 936144702

→ Hearing Date and Court sitting time

→ Name of court master with contact information

→ Court Specific Instructions

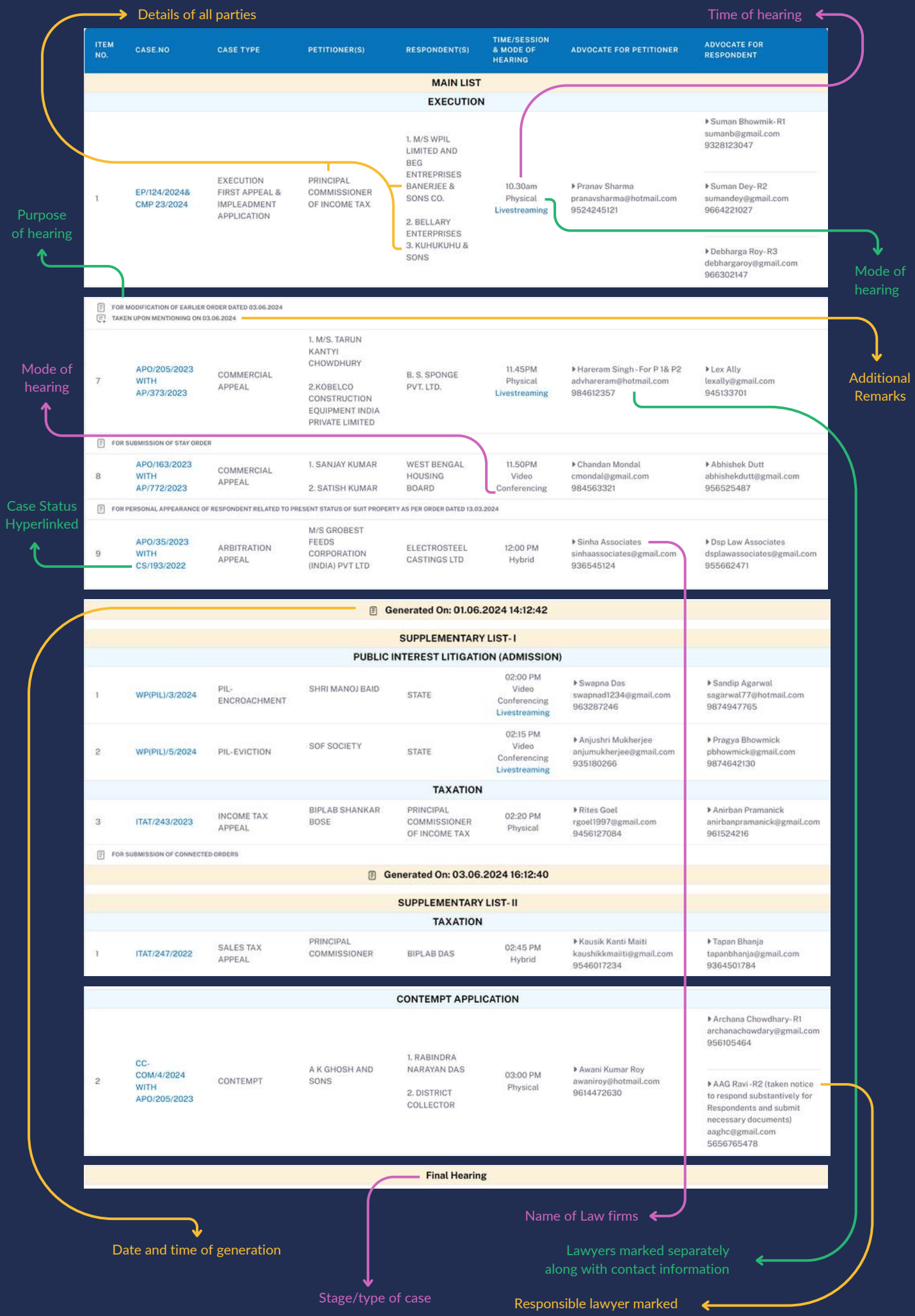
Readability for technology solutions

← Link for video-conferencing

← Notes affecting movement of case

ITEM NO.	CASE NO	CASE TYPE	PETITIONER(S)	RESPONDENT(S)	TIME/SESSION & MODE OF HEARING	ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER	ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT
MAIN LIST							
EXECUTION							
1	EP/124/2024& CMP 23/2024	EXECUTION FIRST APPEAL & IMPLEADMENT APPLICATION	PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX	1. M/S WPIL LIMITED AND BEG ENTREPRISES BANERJEE & SONS CO. 2. BELLARY ENTERPRISES 3. KUHUKUHU & SONS	10.30am Physical Livestreaming	Pranav Sharma pranavsharma@hotmail.com 9524245121	Suman Bhowmik- R1 sumanb@gmail.com 9328123047 Suman Dey- R2 sumandey@gmail.com 9664221027 Debharga Roy- R3 debhargaroy@gmail.com 966302147
FOR MODIFICATION OF EARLIER ORDER DATED 03.06.2024 TAKEN UPON MENTIONING ON 03.06.2024							
7	APO/205/2023 WITH AP/373/2023	COMMERCIAL APPEAL	1. M/S. TARUN KANTYI CHOWDHURY 2. KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	B. S. SPONGE PVT. LTD.	11.45PM Physical Livestreaming	Hareram Singh- For P 1& P2 advhareram@hotmail.com 984612357	Lex Ally lexally@gmail.com 945133701
FOR SUBMISSION OF STAY ORDER							
8	APO/163/2023 WITH AP/772/2023	COMMERCIAL APPEAL	1. SANJAY KUMAR 2. SATISH KUMAR	WEST BENGAL HOUSING BOARD	11.50PM Video Conferencing	Chandan Mondal cmondal@gmail.com 984563321	Abhishek Dutt abhishekdudd@gmail.com 956525487
FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF RESPONDENT RELATED TO PRESENT STATUS OF SUIT PROPERTY AS PER ORDER DATED 13.03.2024							
9	APO/35/2023 WITH CS/193/2022	ARBITRATION APPEAL	M/S GROBEST FEEDS CORPORATION (INDIA) PVT LTD	ELECTROSTEEL CASTINGS LTD	12:00 PM Hybrid	Sinha Associates sinhaassociates@gmail.com 936545124	Dsp Law Associates dplawassociates@gmail.com 955662471
Generated On: 01.06.2024 14:12:42							
SUPPLEMENTARY LIST- I							
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (ADMISSION)							
1	WP(PIL)/3/2024	PIL- ENCROACHMENT	SHRI MANOJ BAID	STATE	02:00 PM Video Conferencing Livestreaming	Swapna Das swapnad1234@gmail.com 963287246	Sandip Agarwal sagarwal77@hotmail.com 9874947765
2	WP(PIL)/5/2024	PIL- EVICTION	SOF SOCIETY	STATE	02:15 PM Video Conferencing Livestreaming	Anjushri Mukherjee anjumukherjee@gmail.com 935180266	Pragya Bhowmick pbhowmick@gmail.com 9874642130
TAXATION							
3	ITAT/243/2023	INCOME TAX APPEAL	BIPLAB SHANKAR BOSE	PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX	02:20 PM Physical	Rites Goel rgoel1997@gmail.com 9456127084	Anirban Pramanick anirbanpramanick@gmail.com 961524216
FOR SUBMISSION OF CONNECTED ORDERS							
Generated On: 03.06.2024 16:12:40							
SUPPLEMENTARY LIST- II							
TAXATION							
1	ITAT/247/2022	SALES TAX APPEAL	PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER	BIPLAB DAS	02:45 PM Hybrid	Kausik Kanti Maiti kausikmaiti@gmail.com 9546017234	Tapan Bhanja tapanbhanja@gmail.com 9364501784
CONTEMPT APPLICATION							
2	CC-COM/4/2024 WITH APO/205/2023	CONTEMPT	A K GHOSH AND SONS	1. RABINDRA NARAYAN DAS 2. DISTRICT COLLECTOR	03:00 PM Physical	Awani Kumar Roy awaniroy@hotmail.com 9614472630	Archana Chowdhary- R1 archanachowdary@gmail.com 956105464 AAG Ravi- R2 (taken notice to respond substantively for Respondents and submit necessary documents) aaghc@gmail.com 5656765478

Final Hearing



→ Case status hyperlinked

Detailed Case Info

- Add to Calendar
- Notify in WhatsApp
- Print
- Back

Case Number:	EP/124/2024& CMP 23/2024	Case Type:	Execution First Appeal & Impleadment Application
Judge:	THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE TANVI BANGARU & HON'BLE JUSTICE SUSAN THALLI	Petitioner:	PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
Respondent:	1. M/S WPIL LIMITED AND BEG ENTREPRISES BANERJEE & SONS CO. 2. BELLARY ENTERPRISES 3. KUHUKUHU & SONS	Petitioner Advocate:	Pranav Sharma pranavsharma@hotmail.com 9524245121
Respondent Advocate:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suman Bhowmik- R1 sumanb@gmail.com 9328123047 Suman Dey- R2 sumandey@gmail.com 9864221027 Debharga Roy- R3 debhargaroy@gmail.com 966302147 		

Components for ease of use

- FILING DETAILS
- ADJOURNMENT DETAILS
- LAST POSTED FOR
- LAST ACTION TAKEN
- NEXT DATE OF HEARING
- PRAYER INFORMATION
- LIST OF DOCUMENTS FILED
- CAVEATOR/CAVEATEE DETAILS
- TRIAL/APPELLATE DETAILS
- DAILY ORDERS
- JUDGMENTS
- CONNECTED CASES
- CERTIFIED COPY INFORMATION
- INDEX SHEET INFORMATION
- SCRUTINY INFORMATION
- INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATIONS(IA) INFORMATION
- POSTAL INFORMATION
- JUDICIAL DEPOSIT
- TRIAL/APPELLATE INFORMATION
- DAILY ORDERS INFORMATION
- LINKED CASES
- JUDGMENT INFORMATION
- CERTIFIED COPY INFORMATION (FINAL ORDER)
- CERTIFIED COPY INFORMATION (INTERIM ORDER)
- INDEX SHEET INFORMATION
- SCRUTINY INFORMATION
- INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATIONS(IA) INFORMATION
- DOCUMENTS INFORMATION
- POSTAL INFORMATION
- JUDICIAL DEPOSIT

Comprehensive Case Status Information

COURT NUMBER	PUBLISHED DATE
1	28.05.2024, 2pm
2	28.05.2024, 1.06pm
3	28.05.2024, 1.30pm
4	28.05.2024, 1.32pm
5	28.05.2024, 11.34pm
6	28.05.2024, 2.36pm

Date and Time of Publication

[Live Cause List/Display board](#)

Display Board

COURT NUMBER	ITEM NUMBER	PASSOVER	LIVESTREAMING
1	11 (Supp. I)	2, 7	
2	4	1	
3	5	3,4	
4	7	6	
5	3	2	
6	2		

Live cause list

Select Court Room

ITEM NUMBER	CASE NUMBER	PARTIES	RESULT
MAIN LIST			
1	EP/124/2024& CMP 23/2024	PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX vs I. M/S WPIL LIMITED AND BEG ENTREPRISES BANERJEE & SONS CO.	Impleadment application allowed
2	EPS/137/2024	PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX vs I. M/S HOOGHLY BUILDING AND INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED	Passover
3	APO/17/2024 WITH CS/250/1997	ANSHUMALA BANSAL vs I.LUPHEALTH HOLDINGS INC	NDOH 04.07.2024

Live causelist with real-time information being updated

Day-Wise Roster Division

- Monday Habeas Corpus, 482 CrpC, Police Protection, PDCSO
- Tuesday Criminal Leave Petition, Referred Trial, Original Petition(Women and Children)
- Wednesday In custody matters- PDCSO, Juvenile Justice Act
- Thursday Criminal Revision, Original Petition (Speedy Disposal)
- Friday Habeas Corpus, 482 CrpC, Police Protection, PDCSO

Division of case types for judges with multiple portfolios

Key Considerations for Implementing Model Causelist Suggestions

1 Challenges around policy decisions



2 Challenges of standardisation of nomenclature across courts



3 Individual case complexity and scheduling challenges



4 Lack of comprehensive listing rules

Reaching a consensus on a model causelist and listing systems could be complex as it needs to take into account opinions of judges, court administrators, and legal practitioners. Achieving success would require careful deliberation, collaboration, and negotiation, involving extensive consultations, pilot initiatives, and feedback mechanisms. Gaining support from key decision-makers and stakeholders, such as the Chief Justice of the court, judges' committees (e.g., e-committees and other administrative committees), Registrar General, Registrar (Judicial), Registrar/Director (IT), Central Project Coordinators, court managers, and bar associations, is crucial to overcoming resistance and ensuring broad-based participation. Despite the challenges, pursuing this goal can lead to significant improvements in clarity, efficiency, and accessibility. With dedicated efforts and open communication, tangible progress can be achieved.

Key challenges in implementing the suggestions made in this paper:



1. Challenges around policy decisions:

Implementing changes to causelist components, like adjusting publication times and providing approximate hearing schedules, requires significant policy decisions at the court level. Courts operate within a complex legal and administrative framework, bound by procedural norms, protocols, and resource constraints. Introducing substantive changes requires careful consideration of these factors, including implications for court operations, workload, and efficiency. Courts may face institutional inertia and reluctance to depart from established practices, influenced by diverse needs such as caseload volume and technological capabilities. Leadership within each court will need to take the initiative on these changes.

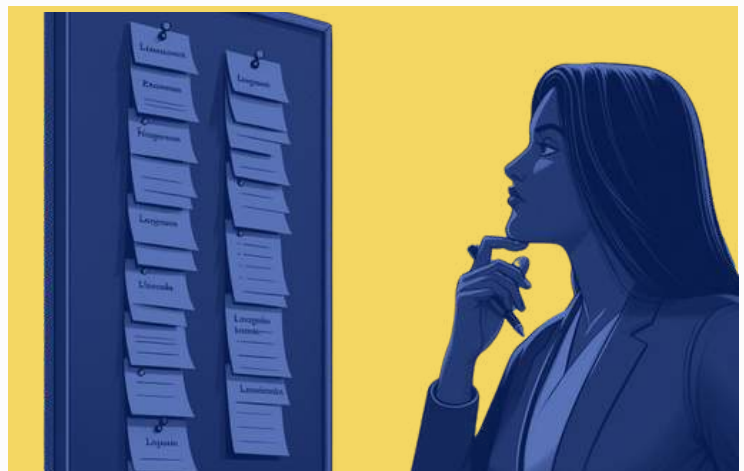


2. Challenges of standardisation of nomenclature across courts:



The variation in how courts handle causelists across the country highlights the need for greater standardisation and clarity. While respecting the discretion of each court and judge, establishing a uniform terminology for causelists would improve communication and comprehension among lawyers, regardless of their jurisdiction or experience level. Standardisation would simplify processes, reduce confusion, and enhance efficiency in legal proceedings. Moreover, it would improve accessibility for non-lawyers and the public, promoting transparency and inclusivity in the judicial system.

However, implementing a standardised nomenclature is tough due to the diverse requirements and preferences of individual courts and judges, who operate within unique frameworks shaped by historical practices or procedural rules. This may lead to resistance, as some perceive it could constrain judicial autonomy and discretion.





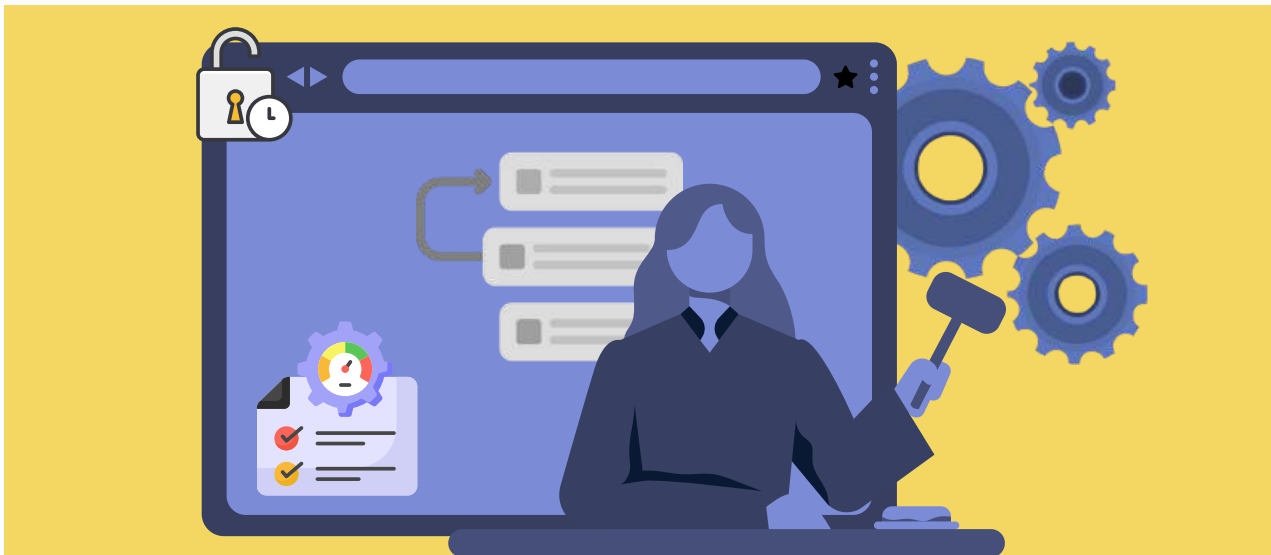
3. Individual case complexity and scheduling challenges:

The challenges in listing procedures reflect systemic issues in the legal framework, highlighting deficiencies in case management,³⁷ scheduling, and overall court administration. Effective case management involves addressing each case's unique complexities and urgent requirements through differentiated case management.³⁸ This approach not only dictates when cases are listed but also enables the court to determine how many cases can be effectively heard in a day and allocate appropriate hearing times. Such measures promote efficient procedures that minimize manual intervention and enhance judicial efficiency.

A scientific approach to determining the number of cases that can be effectively heard in a day, combined with listing only those cases and informing stakeholders in advance³⁹ will provide greater certainty of hearings and when they will be heard during a day. This methodical scheduling ensures that all parties involved are aware of the hearing schedule well in advance, reducing the likelihood of delays and adjournments.

Limiting time for oral arguments, first proposed by the Law Commission in 1984³⁹ based on the needs of both parties, could reduce delays. Courts could solicit input from all parties' lawyers to estimate a reasonable duration for arguments and enforce adherence to it. Rather than rigid schedules, courts should adopt a flexible approach tailored to each case's specifics, including factors like legal issues, evidence volume, urgency, and requested time by counsel.

By prioritising efficiency and fairness through nuanced case management strategies, courts can optimise listing procedures. Technology-driven solutions such as case management systems can automate tasks and support data-driven decisions, ultimately reducing backlogs and improving access to justice.



³⁷ How to Start Resolving the Indian Judiciary's Long-Running Case Backlog, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Pratik Datta and Suyash Rai, September 9 2021, available at <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2021/09/how-to-start-resolving-the-indian-judiciarys-long-running-case-backlog?lang=en>

³⁸ C Cooper, M Solomon and H Bakke, 'Differentiated Case Management: Implementation Manual' (1993), available at <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/differentiated-case-management-implementation-manual>, last accessed 24 February 2024

³⁹ P.16, 99th Law Commission Report on Oral and Written Arguments in the Higher Courts (1984), available at <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ca0daec69b5adc880fb464895726dbdf/uploads/2022/08/2022080811-1.pdf>, last accessed 18 March 2024



4. Lack of comprehensive listing rules:

High Courts prescribe norms for listing through their respective High Court rules and the Supreme Court through "The Handbook on Practice and Procedure of the Court and Office Procedure."⁴⁰ Some courts supplement these guidelines with circulars or practice procedures outlining new listing protocols.⁴¹ While most High Court rules mainly focus on initial listings and statutory timelines and some High Courts on kinds of causelists, case types to be included within them and causelist release schedules, the Supreme Court's rules also encompass bench allocation, causelist release schedules, and case movement decisions. Despite these rules in both High Courts and the Supreme Court, discussions with lawyers reveal inconsistent adherence. Even in the Supreme Court, where rules regarding listing are more detailed, instances have been observed where rules were not followed⁴² raising concerns about transparency and potential corruption within court registries.⁴³ Lawyers have cited cases where cases ordered to be listed were not.⁴⁴ There have also been cases of judges admonishing the registry for a very high number of cases being listed for a day⁴⁵ and cases being filed against judges and court registries for listing very few number of cases before a specific⁴⁶ judge.

⁴⁰ Chapter XIII, Listing of cases, The Handbook on Practice and Procedure of the Court and Office Procedure, Supreme Court of India, 2017

⁴¹ Chhattisgarh High Court. 2013. 'Instructions for listing of cases in the weekly cause list and daily cause list', available at https://highcourt.cg.gov.in/other/INSTRUCTIONS_FOR_CAUSE_LIST.htm (accessed on 12 February 2024); Supreme Court of India. 'Frequently Asked Questions for Advocates/Litigants', available at https://main.sci.gov.in/php/FAQ/5_6246991526434439182.pdf (accessed on 24 March 2024); https://mphc.gov.in/PDF/web_pdf/LU/publication%20of%20weekly%20MH%20cl%20in%20advace.pdf; Supreme Court of India. 2017. 'An overview of the new scheme for automated listing of cases', available at https://main.sci.gov.in/pdf/LU/rationalisation%20of%20assignment_final1.pdf (accessed on 10 January 2024); https://highcourt.cg.gov.in/other/INSTRUCTIONS_FOR_CAUSE_LIST.htm

⁴² Dushyant Dave. 2023. 'SC Registry Isn't Listing Cases the Way it Is Supposed to: A Letter to the CJI', *The Wire*, 6 December, available at <https://thewire.in/law/sc-registry-isnt-listing-cases-the-way-it-is-supposed-to-a-letter-to-the-cji> (accessed on 24 May 2024); Saurav Das. 2023. 'Contrary To SC's Rules Of Assignment, At Least 8 Politically Sensitive Cases Moved To One Judge In 4 Months', *Article14*, 7 December, available at <https://article-14.com/post/contrary-to-sc-s-rules-of-assignment-at-least-8-politically-sensitive-cases-moved-to-one-judge-in-4-months-65713ae124602> (accessed on 2 March 2024); Sheryl Sebastian. 2023. 'Prashant Bhushan Writes To SC Registry Seeking Reasons For Deletion Of Petitions Against Centre's Delay In Judges' Appointments From Causelist', *Livelaw*, 12 December, available at <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/prashant-bhushan-writes-to-sc-registry-seeking-reasons-for-deletion-of-petitions-against-centres-delay-in-judges-appointments-from-causelist-244276> (accessed on 21 March 2024); Aswtika Das. 2024. 'Supreme Court Pulls Up Registry For Not Listing Adani Power Case Despite Judicial Order', *Livelaw*, 23 January, available at <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/supreme-court-registry-adani-power-dushyant-dave-247448> (accessed on 24 March 2024)

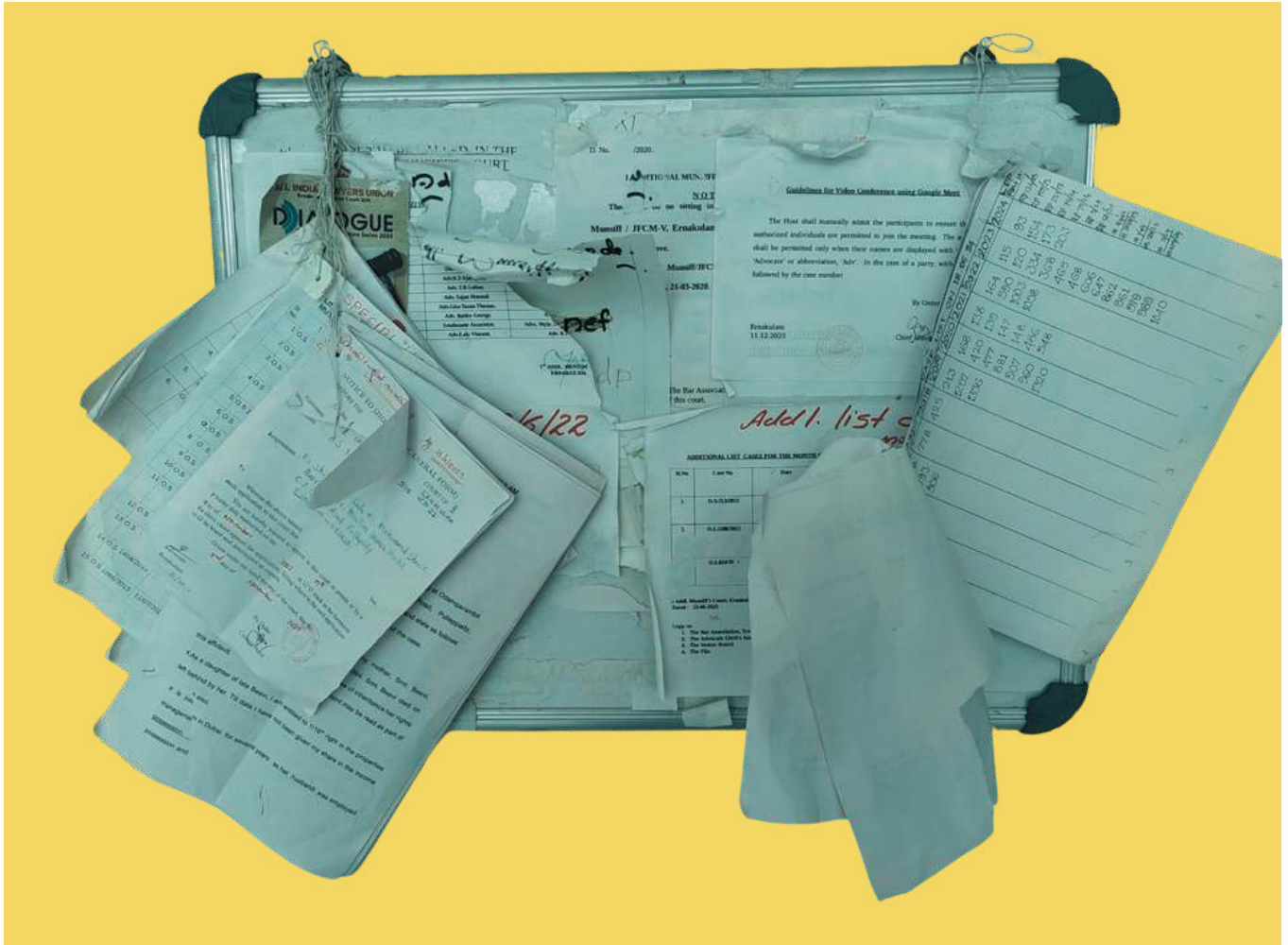
⁴³ Rabhakar D Karandikar. 2022. 'Who Gets to Jump the Queue? Mysteries of a Registry in Indian Courts'. 4 Issue 4 Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research Vol 4 Issue 4

⁴⁴ Sohini Chowdhury. 2022. 'Supreme Court Registry Faces Court's Ire Again For Deleting Case From List; Justice Chandrachud Asks "Is Registry The Judge?"', *Livelaw*, 8 August, available at <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/justice-dy-chandrachud-supreme-court-registry-deleted-matter-206017> (accessed on 18 March 2024); Nalini Sharma. 2023. "Some things are best left unsaid": Justice Kaul on deletion of judges' case from list', *India Today*, 5 December

⁴⁵ Mitthan Lal Samariya v. State of Rajasthan, High Court of Judicature at Rajasthan, S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 17254/2023, order dated 27.03.2024

⁴⁶ Yeshwanth Shenoy v. Chief Justice and Ors., 2023:KER:30917, order dated 09.06.2023

To address these issues, clear and transparent rules specifically addressing listing practices, as has been done in United Kingdom,⁴⁷ should be established. These rules should also include causelist publication timelines that allow for adequate preparation time and cover the entire lifecycle of a case. Implementing systems to minimise manual intervention would help reduce operational issues. Comprehensive listing rules with systems in place for adherence would enhance understanding of court practices among lawyers and litigants and promote transparency, bolstering public confidence.



⁴⁷ Section 14, Crown Court Manual available at https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/JCO/Documents/Protocols/listing_crown_court_manual_050705.pdf (accessed on 4 June 2024); UK Courts and Tribunal Judiciary, Listing FAQs, available at <https://www.judiciary.uk/courts-and-tribunals/business-and-property-courts/commercial-court/lead-times-list-and-contacts/listings-faqs/> (accessed on 4 June 2024)



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