

JUSTICEWINGS LEXEDGE SOLUTIONS LLP

The Legal Landscape – Annual Edition
Covering Year, 2025



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT IN INDIA: JUDICIAL TRENDS AND GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

Intellectual property infringement remains a key challenge in India, particularly in trademarks, copyrights, and designs. Indian courts increasingly view IP as a valuable commercial asset linked to goodwill and consumer trust, not merely statutory registration. Recent jurisprudence adopts a pragmatic approach, assessing prior use, market presence, reputation, and likelihood of consumer confusion, with interim injunctions granted where goodwill and balance of convenience are established.

On this pretext, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has begun granting dynamic injunctions in brand protection cases, requiring e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, and Meesho to act within strict timelines on takedown notices. This proactive approach aims to curb online counterfeiting and is seen as a *pioneering step* tailored to India's expanding digital economy.

year 2025, saw a significant rise in personality and publicity rights litigation, with several film personalities, including **Ajay Devgn, Salman Khan, R. Madhavan, NTR Jr., Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, Karan Johar, Kumar Sanu, and Nagarjuna, securing injunctions and takedown orders against unauthorised use of their names, images, voices, and likenesses.** These cases reflect the Delhi High Court's growing recognition of personality rights as an enforceable facet of intellectual property in the digital and AI-driven economy.





INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT IN INDIA: JUDICIAL TRENDS AND GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

Further, on this count, India has signed the **Riyadh Design Law Treaty**, which aligns the country with global design protection standards, facilitating streamlined protection across multiple jurisdictions.

The treaty, finalised after nearly two decades of negotiations under the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), aims to standardise industrial design protection processes worldwide, offering advantages to stakeholders across various sectors, including SMEs. **Now, applicants can file multiple designs in one application, allowing them to speed up the process and reduce both time and costs.** The treaty also encourages countries to adopt electronic systems for design registration and to promote the digital exchange of priority documents.

This shift can potentially lead to more innovation as designers and businesses are assured that their IP will be better protected internationally, giving them the confidence to expand and collaborate globally. The treaty's adoption can therefore be a “game-changer” for start-ups looking to expand and safeguard their creative innovations in global markets.





JUDICIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT LIFE & SAFETY FROM STRAY ANIMALS

By order dated 11 August 2025, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, taking note of a news article titled "City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price," took suo motu cognisance and issued urgent directions requiring authorities across the NCR to capture and relocate stray dogs to designated shelters, ensure their sterilisation, deworming, and immunisation, maintain proper records, and refrain from releasing them back onto public streets. The Court also directed the creation of adequate dog shelters within eight weeks, warning that any delay or non-compliance would invite strict action.

The order led to widespread objections and the filing of multiple Special Leave Petitions. These were considered by a three-judge bench, which, by its order **dated November 7, 2025, issued comprehensive pan-India directions to address public safety concerns arising from stray dogs and stray cattle.**

The Supreme Court reiterated that the State and its instrumentalities bear an affirmative constitutional obligation under Article 21 to safeguard the right to life and the safety of citizens, particularly children, elderly persons, patients, and other vulnerable groups. Recognising the grave risks posed by stray animals on highways and expressways, the Court directed that:

- Municipal authorities, State Public Works Departments, Transport Departments, and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) shall ensure the removal of stray animals from National and State Highways and Expressways;
- Joint and coordinated drives be undertaken to identify high-risk stretches and relocate animals to designated shelters, gaushalas, or pounds;
- 24x7 patrol teams and prominently displayed helpline numbers be deployed for real-time reporting and response; and
- Chief Secretaries of States/UTs and the Chairperson of NHAI shall be personally accountable for lapses, with compliance affidavits to be filed within eight weeks.





JUDICIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT LIFE & SAFETY FROM STRAY ANIMALS

The Hon'ble Court, further on institutional premises, inclusive of schools, colleges, hospitals, sports complexes, bus depots, and railway stations, directed:

- All such institutions should be identified within two weeks
- Premises be secured through fencing, boundary walls, and access controls
- Each institution appoints a Nodal Officer to prevent stray dog ingress
- Municipal authorities conduct quarterly inspections
- Stray dogs found within institutional premises are to be removed, sterilised, vaccinated, and relocated, and not released back
- Hospitals maintain mandatory stocks of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin
- Educational institutions conduct awareness sessions on prevention and first aid

The matter is now listed on 13 January 2026 for further consideration and for perusal of the compliance affidavits to be filed by the Animal Welfare Board of India, all states and Union Territories, and the Union of India.

In this context, our lead counsel, Adv. C.S. Avdhesh Kr. Varshney has also submitted representations to the local body, highlighting that the mandatory leashing and muzzling of aggressive dogs, at least in confined common spaces such as lifts, must be adhered to, in addition to the strict compliance with the guidelines issued by the Noida Authority.



EVOLVING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN INDIA: LABOUR, CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AND LEGAL PRACTICE



India's Labour Codes 2025: Legal Overhaul and Employer Compliance Imperatives

India's labour law regime has undergone a structural overhaul with the enforcement of four consolidated Labour Codes, namely:-

- a. the Code on Wages, 2019
- b. Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- c. Code on Social Security, 2020
- d. the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020,

The four Labour Codes, effective 21 November 2025, subsume 29 central labour laws, marking a major reset of India's employment framework. They harmonise the definitions of "employee" and "worker", expand protections to fixed-term, contract, gig, and platform workers, and widen employer obligations, especially for indirect and contractor-based employment. The Codes also introduce a compliance-oriented regime with Inspector-cum-Facilitators and decriminalisation of minor defaults, with existing rules continuing where consistent, signalling a shift toward uniformity, formalisation, and expanded social security.

Further, the Ministry have provided FAQ to address questions pertaining to the implementation of these statutes.

Mandatory Probate Scrapped: India Simplifies Succession Law

The Repealing and Amending Act, 2025, effective January 2026, repeals Section 213 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, removing the mandatory probate requirement for Wills of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, and Parsis in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and other affected regions. The earlier colonial-era rule had caused delays, higher costs, and unequal treatment based on religion and geography.

Under the new framework, executors and beneficiaries may act on a Will without probate, enabling faster succession and reducing unnecessary court intervention in uncontested estates. However, probate remains optional and is often preferred by banks and housing societies to avoid disputes, making proper drafting and registration important. Letters of Administration continue to apply in intestate cases, with the reform promoting fairness, efficiency, and uniformity in succession law.



EVOLVING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN INDIA: LABOUR, CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AND LEGAL PRACTICE



Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2025: Implications of Proposed CSR Reforms

The Government of India has introduced the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. XXXII of 2025), proposing revised thresholds under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, governing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The amendments seek to expand CSR applicability to smaller and mid-sized companies while strengthening governance and professional oversight in CSR decision-making. The table below sets out the existing and proposed thresholds.

A key governance reform in the Bill mandates that CSR Committees include at least one director with substantial CSR expertise, strengthening project selection, monitoring, and impact assessment, and shifting CSR from mere compliance to a strategic, outcome-driven function. The Bill promotes broader participation, enhanced oversight, and greater social impact, requiring newly covered companies to reassess applicability, reconstitute committees, and build internal capacity. It will take effect upon Parliamentary approval and notification, marking a move toward more accountable and effective CSR governance in India.

Criteria	Existing threshold (Rs.)	Proposed Threshold (Rs.)
Net Worth	500 Cr or more	100 Cr or more
Turnover	1,000 Cr or more	%00 Cr or more
Net Profit	5 Cr or more	3 Cr or more

Foreign Lawyers in India: What the 2025 BCI Rules Allow

The Bar Council of India (BCI), by press release dated 14 May 2025, enforced amendments to the BCI Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022 (gazetted on 10 March 2023), permitting a limited and regulated entry of foreign lawyers while reaffirming that Indian law practice and litigation remain exclusive to advocates enrolled under the Advocates Act, 1961.

Foreign lawyers and firms may engage only in non-litigious work relating to foreign law, international law, cross-border transactions, and international commercial arbitration, and are barred from practising Indian law or litigation. The regime is based on reciprocity, allows Indian advocates to register abroad, and introduces mandatory registration, five-year renewals, and a Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO) system permitting practice in India for up to 60 days per year. While global firms have shown interest, the BCI has not yet published a list of registered foreign firms. The reforms seek to strengthen India's role in international arbitration while safeguarding domestic legal practice.



EVOLVING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN INDIA: LABOUR, CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AND LEGAL PRACTICE



Supreme Court Introduces Mandatory Timelines for Oral Arguments: A Procedural Reform

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India introduced a significant procedural reform on 29 December 2025, mandating strict adherence to timelines for oral arguments by counsel appearing before it. By way of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued on 29 December 2025, the Court has sought to streamline hearings, enhance judicial efficiency, and ensure equitable distribution of judicial time.

Under the new SOP, all counsel appearing before the Supreme Court are required to specify proposed time slots for oral submissions at least one day prior to the hearing through the online appearance slip portal. In addition, brief written submissions, not exceeding five pages, must be filed at least three days before the hearing after serving an advance copy on the opposite side. Once the time allocation for oral arguments is fixed, counsel are required to strictly conclude their submissions within the assigned timelines.

The reform reflects the Supreme Court's broader effort to improve court management, reduce delays caused by prolonged oral hearings, and promote greater reliance on concise written submissions. By enforcing structured timelines, the Court aims to balance the right to be heard with the need for efficiency, predictability, and effective utilisation of judicial time.

Though this change may, prima facie, appear to be of limited significance, however, it has far-reaching implications for the justice delivery system. With over ninety thousand cases pending before the Supreme Court and a substantial number of matters listed each day, several cases are often not taken up due to time constraints. By providing the Registry with greater clarity on the time required for each matter, this framework enables more realistic cause lists and optimal scheduling of hearings.

This, in turn, reduces the time spent by counsel waiting for matters that are never reached and alleviates the financial burden on litigants who incur costs for ineffective hearings. If this model is progressively adopted by other courts, it has the potential to result in significant time savings for advocates and meaningful cost efficiencies for litigants, thereby contributing to a more predictable and efficient judicial process.



RIGHT TO PRIVACY- DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT, 2023

In 2025, India consolidated its data protection regime through the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, supported by the notified DPDP Rules, 2025, establishing a uniform framework for digital personal data across public and private sectors. A key point of concern is the amendment to Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which earlier permitted disclosure of personal information where a larger public interest justified it. The removal of this explicit safeguard has drawn criticism from civil society and media groups, who warn that it may weaken transparency, investigative journalism, and public accountability.

While the Union Government maintains that the DPDP Act does not dilute the RTI framework, relying on privacy principles articulated in "Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India (2017)", privacy cannot override transparency in governance. Importantly, Section 8(2) of the RTI Act remains intact, allowing disclosure where public interest outweighs protected interests. Indian courts have consistently held that the right to privacy, although fundamental, is not absolute; this balancing approach is likely to guide future judicial interpretation of the DPDP framework.

From a compliance perspective, the proposed DPDP Rules, 2025 seek to operationalise the Act by prescribing clearer privacy notices, strengthened consent requirements (particularly for children), enhanced obligations for Significant Data Fiduciaries, structured grievance redressal, and mandatory breach-notification norms backed by substantial penalties. Overall, India's data protection framework broadly aligns with global best practices, including GDPR principles, recognising that both privacy and access to information must be balanced on a case-by-case basis.





ADR IN INDIA: FROM COMPULSION TO CHOICE

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has long been promoted to address India's judicial backlog, but recent policy and judicial developments reflect a recalibration. The Government of India has begun reconsidering mandatory ADR, softening or withdrawing compulsory pre-litigation mediation and arbitration in certain disputes, recognising that ADR is most effective when voluntary and dispute-specific, rather than uniformly imposed.

Courts have echoed this view, noting that mandatory ADR may delay justice in complex commercial, IP, or urgent interim matters. Current policy, therefore, prioritises strengthening courts as primary adjudicatory forums, while encouraging ADR through incentives, institutional support, and improved infrastructure.

At the same time, PSUs are increasingly moving away from traditional arbitration by incorporating mediation clauses in their commercial agreements, particularly in infrastructure and large commercial contracts. Bodies such as NHA, faced with a high volume of arbitral claims, are exploring mediation as a faster and less adversarial alternative, signalling a broader institutional shift in dispute management.

Digital and Institutional ADR Developments

The growth of ADR in India is being driven by both digital innovation and institutional strengthening. Jupitice Justice Technologies has developed an end-to-end online ADR platform enabling parties to resolve disputes through mediation, arbitration, conciliation, and other negotiated processes within a single digital environment. The platform supports the entire dispute lifecycle from case initiation and appointment of neutrals to document management, virtual hearings, settlements, and arbitral awards, while allowing parties the flexibility to choose their own mediators or arbitrators or select from an empanelled panel.

Complementing these initiatives, the India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC), established in 2023 and headquartered in New Delhi, is emerging as a key pillar of India's institutional arbitration framework. Set up by statute, IIAC provides structured domestic and international arbitration, mediation, and conciliation under modern procedural rules, transparent fees, professional case management, and time-bound processes. Its growing caseload, each alternative month new hirings notifications reflect India's shift from ad hoc arbitration to globally benchmarked, institution-led dispute resolution, strengthening investor confidence and ease of doing business.



PRIVATE EQUITY & M&A TRENDS IN INDIA: A 2025 MARKET RECAP



In 2025, India's startup ecosystem saw selective funding and structural consolidation. Early-stage venture capital slowed, with tech startup funding declining by about 25% in H1 2025 to approximately USD 4.8 billion, **yet India retained its position as the world's third-largest startup market by funding volume.** Investor confidence was sustained by private equity investments, strategic M&A, and a revival in the IPO market.

Private equity was a defining feature of the year. Abu Dhabi-based IHC acquired a 43.5% controlling stake in Sammaan Capital for nearly USD 1 billion, marking one of the largest cross-border deals involving an Indian NBFC. Blackstone invested approximately USD 705 million for a 9.9% stake in Federal Bank, reflecting continued global interest in Indian banking assets.

Late-stage funding remained active in select businesses, with Erisha E Mobility raising around USD 1 billion for global expansion and GreenLine securing about USD 275 million to scale green logistics. Venture capital focused on mobility, SaaS, fintech, infrastructure, and AI-driven enterprises, signalling a shift toward capital-efficient models.

The IPO market revived with notable listings. Meesho debuted with strong gains, trading at a premium to its issue price. PhysicsWallah launched its IPO in November 2025 with strong institutional interest, while Lenskart and fintech platform Groww also went public, reinforcing momentum in the startup IPO wave.

Overall, 2025 marked a shift toward fewer but larger transactions, with profitability, execution discipline, and scalability emerging as key drivers of success in India's startup ecosystem.



FIRST-GENERATION LAWYERS & INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

Recently, the First Generation Lawyers Association of India, comprising around 500 active members and led by Adv. Rudra Vikram Singh came into focus after filing two PILs.

The first PIL challenges the appointment of over 650 advocates as government counsel by the Ministry of Law and Justice, alleging ineligible appointments (including non-AIBE-qualified advocates), bypassing of mandatory experience norms under the Bar Council of India Rules, and a non-transparent selection process lacking objective criteria or disclosed evaluation records.

The second PIL assails the 1980 rules governing allotment of lawyers' chambers in the Delhi High Court, which permit inheritance of chambers by spouses and children of existing allottees, allegedly disadvantaging first-generation lawyers who wait years for basic infrastructure.

In both petitions, the Association contends that such practices violate Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution by diluting merit and entrenching hereditary and informal advantages. The reliefs sought include disclosure of selection criteria and records, uniform and objective norms for government counsel appointments, quashing of ineligible empanelment, and reconsideration of chamber allotment rules to remove hereditary preference.

These proceedings underscore that transparency in public appointments is a constitutional mandate. The cases may have far-reaching implications for government litigation policy, professional access, and equal opportunity for first-generation lawyers. The PIL concerning panel appointments is listed on 6 January 2026, and another PIL relating to chambers allotment is listed on 19 February 2026, both before the Delhi High Court.





AI IN CORPORATE INDIA: INNOVATE RESPONSIBLY OR RISK LITIGATION

Artificial Intelligence is transforming Corporate India by strengthening governance, compliance, and risk management through automation and predictive analytics. While enhancing efficiency and competitiveness, its adoption must be guided by regulatory oversight and human accountability to ensure responsible and sustainable growth.

In the month of December, the bench of Hon'ble bench of CJI has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking formal AI regulations in courts, and stated that judges remain cautious while adopting AI-based tools.

AI currently acts as an assistive tool, with all outputs requiring final review by qualified professionals to ensure compliance and legal accuracy. Corporate legal teams must recognise that irresponsible AI use can trigger litigation, regulatory penalties, and reputational damage, as seen in recent cases involving AI-generated deepfakes. Judicial responses, including the Kerala High Court's policy restricting AI to administrative functions, underscore the need for strict human oversight, reinforcing that sustainable innovation depends on responsible governance.

In this regard, our Managing Partner, Mr Avdhesh Kr. Varshney had the opportunity to share his views at the Le Grand Legal Summit, organised by Le-Confluence on 19 and 20 July 2025 at the Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Dwarka.

In this context, another summit titled “The India AI Impact Summit 2026”, organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is scheduled for 19–20 February, wherein more than 30 countries are participating. The summit is expected to attract a large gathering and may be attended by interested participants by registering through the official website at no cost.





IBC 2.0: HOW THE NEW BILL RECALIBRATES INDIA'S INSOLVENCY FRAMEWORK

When the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, was enacted, it marked a decisive break from India's fragmented and debtor-friendly insolvency regime. The pre-IBC framework, governed by SICA, SARFAESI, and the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, was plagued by delays, overlapping jurisdictions, and severe value erosion. While the Code altered debtor behaviour and improved credit discipline, structural stress has persisted. *By mid-2025, over 8,400 CIRPs had been admitted, yet only about 15% resulted in approved resolution plans, with over 2,800 companies pushed into liquidation. Although resolution plans yielded an average 32–33% recovery, delays diluted outcomes, with average closure taking around 720 days, far exceeding the statutory 330-day limit.*

Against this backdrop, the IBC Amendment Bill (IBC 2.0) seeks to recalibrate, rather than replace, the framework, drawing on nearly a decade of implementation experience. Identifying delay as the primary destroyer of value, the Bill prioritises speed and procedural efficiency over rigid formalism. It further strengthens the role of the Committee of Creditors by limiting judicial interference in commercial decisions, in line with Supreme Court rulings in *K. Sashidhar*, *Essar Steel*, and *Ebix Singapore*, which affirm the primacy of commercial wisdom and the need for certainty and finality.

A key reform under IBC 2.0 is the strengthening of disclosure and information architecture. Enhanced requirements relating to Information Memoranda, avoidance transactions, and financial disclosures, coupled with streamlined compliance and standardised digital reporting, aim to reduce information asymmetry, improve price discovery, and enable real-time oversight.





TOP 10 LANDMARK JUDGMENTS (2024-2025)

Key Supreme Court and High Court Decisions with Practical Legal Impact

This is a short summary of ten important judgments revolving around commercial litigation, arbitration, property rights, and procedural safeguards.

Bilkis Yakub Rasool v. Union of India (2024)

The Supreme Court quashed remission granted to convicts, holding that remission powers are subject to strict constitutional and legal limits and cannot be exercised arbitrarily.

Impact: Reinforces procedural legality, curbs executive discretion, and strengthens victims' rights jurisprudence.

Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish (2024)

The Court held that viewing, storing, or possessing child sexual abuse material is an offence under POCSO, and intermediaries may lose safe-harbour protection if they fail to act on lawful takedown directions.

Impact: Expands criminal liability for digital content, raises platform compliance standards, and strengthens child protection enforcement.

Ajay Kumar v. Union of India (2024)

The Supreme Court ruled that the demolition of structures without prior notice and hearing violates Article 21. Even alleged unauthorised constructions cannot be summarily demolished; due process and proportionality are mandatory.

Impact: Protects property and shelter under Article 21, restrains arbitrary demolition drives, and reinforces judicial oversight over executive action.



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Sunil Kumar Singh v. Bihar Legislative Council (2025)

The Court ruled that legislative expulsions are subject to judicial review where proportionality, natural justice, and constitutional rights are affected. Article 212 does not bar scrutiny of such administrative actions, and the punishment of expulsion was held disproportionate and modified under Article 142.

Impact: Strengthens judicial oversight, protects democratic representation, and clarifies limits of legislative privilege.

Imran Pratapgarhi v. State of Gujarat (2025)

The Supreme Court quashed an FIR over a social media post, holding that a preliminary inquiry is mandatory in speech-related offences punishable with three to seven years under the BNSS. The judgment stresses restraint, proportionality, and constitutional tolerance in criminalising expression.

Impact: Raises the threshold for speech-related prosecutions, prevents mechanical FIRs, and reinforces free speech protections.

State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025)

The Supreme Court held that indefinite delay by a Governor in granting assent to State Bills is unconstitutional. Invoking Article 142, the Court deemed long-pending Bills to have received assent and prescribed timelines for gubernatorial action, reinforcing federalism and curbing executive inaction.

Impact: Ensures legislative clarity, avoids governance paralysis, and reinforces accountability of high offices.



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Gayatri Balasamy v. ISG Novasoft Technologies Ltd. (2025)

The Constitution Bench held that courts have limited power to modify arbitral awards, restricted to severable invalid portions, clerical or computational errors, and post-award interest. Courts cannot re-appreciate evidence or revisit merits. The ruling harmonises precedents, limits judicial interference, and confines Article 142 to concluding litigation, not rewriting awards.

Impact: Strengthens arbitral award finality, limits post-award challenges, and improves certainty in arbitration clauses and risk assessment.

Mansi Brar Fernandes v. Shubha Sharma (2025)

The Supreme Court held timely possession of a home is part of Article 21, linking project delays to the right to life. While protecting genuine homebuyers, it cautioned against IBC misuse by speculators, balancing consumer protection and insolvency law.

Impact: Strengthens homebuyer rights, clarifies consumer–insolvency interface, and enhances developer and resolution professional accountability.¹⁶

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*In the recent case of **Virender Singh Dongwal v. Manju Aggarwal (Criminal Appeal No. 5060 of 2025)**, the Court allowed compounding at the Supreme Court stage upon payment of 10% of the cheque amount, reinforcing the principle of settlement over protracted litigation. This approach builds upon the framework laid down in **Damodar S. Prabhu v. Sayed Babalal H.**, where graded costs were introduced to encourage early settlement while maintaining accountability, thereby balancing judicial efficiency, the credibility of negotiable instruments, and the interests of justice. **The Supreme Court has consistently held that offences under this section are compoundable, even at the appellate stage, subject to payment of appropriate costs.***

Sanjabija Tari v. Kishore S. Borcar & Anr. (2025)

The Supreme Court clarified that a cash loan exceeding ₹20,000 does not become unenforceable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act merely because it violates Section 269SS of the Income Tax Act. While such a transaction may attract a tax penalty under Section 271D of the IT Act, it does not render the underlying debt illegal or void. The Court further introduced procedural reforms to address mounting pendency in cheque dishonour cases, including electronic service of summons, early-stage digital settlement mechanisms, monitoring dashboards, and discretionary use of probation to balance deterrence with efficiency.

Impact: This judgment closes a long-standing defence loophole in cheque bounce cases, preserves the sanctity of negotiable instruments, accelerates NI Act proceedings through technology-driven reforms, and aims to significantly reduce trial court backlog while balancing recovery with criminal prosecution. This judgment attracted considerable attention in the unregulated finance market.

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