Cassie

SATURDAY, 25 JULY 2026

DAILY

Court Digest

The day's most significant judgments from India's courts.

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– Article 32 | Writ Petition for Quashing FIRs Must Show Fundamental Rights Violation : SC
– Arbitrary Rejection of Objections to Voters' List Without Reasoned Order : AP HC
– Educational Institutions Not 'Service Providers' : Uttarakhand SCDRC

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Supreme Court

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Constitutional & Fundamental Rights

SUPREME COURT

Writ Petition for Quashing FIRs Must Show Fundamental Rights Violation

Why it matters. Practitioners must now demonstrate a clear violation of fundamental rights or exceptional circumstances to justify bypassing the High Court under Article 226 or Section 482 CrPC when seeking quashing of FIRs.

> *Article 32 of the Constitution is the constitutional conduit through which this Court may issue 'appropriate' writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Part III. The right to approach this Court under Article 32 is itself a fundamental right and has been aptly described by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The Supreme Court dismissed the writ petition. The petitioner failed to establish any infringement of fundamental rights or exceptional circumstances warranting direct intervention under Article 32. The Court also held that the subject FIRs related to separate transactions disclosing distinct offences and could not be clubbed. Liberty was reserved to the petitioner to approach the appropriate forum to seek reliefs as he may be entitled to in law.

§ Article 32, Constitution of India

Rutvij Bhagat Singh Wakhare vs The State Of Maharashtra

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	CITATION
Supreme Court of India	24.07.2026	Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 127 of 2026	2026 INSC 740

BENCH

Justice Sanjay Karol



Work & Employment Issues · Suspension, Show-cause Noti... SUPREME COURT

State Cannot Dilute Central Govt Directions

Why it matters. Recruitment rules must be followed strictly. Arbitrary cut-off marks cannot be superimposed. Candidates can challenge process despite participation if illegality is writ large. State action must be fair and transparent.

> *Failure of the Selection Committee/SoUP to follow the 2014 Rules to the tee, more particularly excluding the appellants by fixing an arbitrary qualifying or cut-off marks in the guise of screening eligible candidates though the vacancies advertised out-numbered candidates prima facie found eligible, cannot be validated merely on the ground that the appellants participated in the selection process.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. Supreme Court allowed appeals, set aside High Court judgment dated 04.01.2023. Directed State of Uttar Pradesh to consider appellants for recruitment against 5,507 current vacancies in relevant disciplines within four months of approach. Appointments with prospective effect, subject to verification of qualifications and antecedents. Appellants entitled to service benefits (excluding back wages, seniority, promotion) and pension/gratuity if qualified.

§ **Uttar Pradesh Industrial Training Institutes (Instructors) Service Rules, 2014**

Arvind Kumar & Ors. v. State of U.P. & Ors.

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	CITATION
Supreme Court of India	24.07.2026	C.A. No.-008257-008259 - 2026	2026 INSC 741

BENCH

Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice Augustine George Masih

Government & Public Body Interactions · Municipal Licenc... SUPREME COURT

Regulatory Directions Not Adjudication

Why it matters. Practitioners must distinguish between TRAI's regulatory enforcement powers and TDSAT's exclusive adjudicatory jurisdiction to avoid jurisdictional challenges in telecom disputes.

> *The direction issued by TRAI must be referable to, and confined to, securing compliance with a subsisting regulation, licence condition or other matter falling within Section 11(1)(b); it cannot travel beyond the regulatory field into the resolution of the parties' contractual claims.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, set aside the TDSAT's order dated 10.03.2010, and held that TRAI had jurisdiction to issue directions under Section 13 for regulatory compliance. No order as to costs.

§ Section 13, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India v. M/s Polimer Cable Network and Others

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	CITATION
Supreme Court of India	24.07.2026	C.A. No.-004359-004359 - 2010	2026 INSC 742

BENCH

Justice S.V.N. Bhatt, Justice N.V. Anjaria,

High Courts

6 judgments in this edition

KEEP SWIPING >>>

Work & Employment Issues · PF, ESI & Statutory Benefits Dis... ALLAHABAD HC

Substantive Appointment Date Governs Seniority

Why it matters. Practitioners must now ensure seniority claims are based on substantive appointment dates under Regulation 3(1)(b) U.P. Intermediate Education Act, 1921. Invalid seniority lists based on initial appointment dates cannot override statutory mandate.

> *Seniority of teachers in a grade shall be determined on the basis of their substantive appointment in that grade.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The Division Bench allowed the Special Appeal, set aside the judgment and order dated 13.08.2021, upheld the order dated 25.03.2017, and directed consequential benefits to the appellant within 15 days of certified copy production. The Court held that seniority for service benefits must be determined based on substantive appointment dates under Regulation 3(1)(b) of Chapter II of the Regulations framed under the U.P. Intermediate Education Act, 1921.

§ Regulation 3(1)(b), U.P. Intermediate Education Act, 1921

Jai Ram vs Sri Prafulla Kumar Mishra and Ors.

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.
Allahabad High Court	24.07.2026	SPECIAL APPEAL No. - 288 of 2021 at Lucknow

CITATION	BENCH
2026 SCC OnLine All 1	Justice Alok Mathur,J. and Justice Amitabh Kumar Rai,J.

Work & Employment Issues · Disciplinary Proceedings & Do... KARNATAKA HC

Limited Tribunal Jurisdiction to Enforce Strike Prohibition During Conciliation

Why it matters. Employers must now approach Industrial Tribunals for limited relief to enforce strike prohibitions during conciliation, rather than filing writ petitions against unions. Tribunals can pass protective orders but cannot adjudicate substantive disputes.

> *From the tenor and tone of Section 97 of the Code, 2020, it is evident that the jurisdiction of the Civil Court is expressly excluded in respect of matters to which the provisions of the Code apply*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. Writ petition dismissed as not maintainable. Liberty reserved to approach Industrial Tribunal for enforcement of Section 62(1)(d) prohibition during conciliation. Tribunal's jurisdiction is limited to enforcing the prohibition and ceases upon expiry of the statutory period. Interim order period excluded from statutory limitation.

§ Section 62(1)(d), Industrial Relations Code, 2020

Bosch Automotive Electronics India Pvt Ltd. v. Addl. Labour Commissioner & Robert Bosch Automotive Electronics Employees Union

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	BENCH
Karnataka High Court	24.07.2026	WP/8044/2026	Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde

Criminal Issues · DV, Dowry, Cruelty, and other Criminal Matters

KARNATAKA HC

Proximity of Harassment to Suicide Essential for Abetment

Why it matters. Prosecutors must now establish a direct and immediate link between the accused's conduct and the suicide to secure a conviction under Section 306 IPC. Generalized allegations are insufficient.

> *To attract the offence of abetment of suicide, there must be proof of direct or indirect acts of instigation or incitement by the accused, and such acts must be in close proximity to the commission of suicide.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The appellant was acquitted of offences under Sections 498A and 306 IPC. The Court set aside the trial court's judgment dated 19.05.2016, holding that the prosecution failed to prove the guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The benefit of doubt was extended to the appellant.

§ Section 306, Indian Penal Code, 1860

Hanamant @ Appu s/o Ramanna Waddar v. State of Karnataka

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	CITATION
Karnataka High Court	24.07.2026	CRL.A/100200/2016	2026:KHC-D:10535

BENCH

Justice Rajeshwari N. Hegde

Criminal Issues · Contempt of Court

RAJASTHAN HC

Non-compliance of Regularization Order Leads to Personal Appearance

Why it matters. Lawyers must advise clients that contempt jurisdiction is a coercive tool; non-compliance with regularization orders can lead to imprisonment and salary attachment of officials.

> *The respondents have not filed any appeal before the Division Bench hence, the order has attained finality. The respondents have not even bothered to file a recall application after examination of case of petitioner as mentioned by them in their order dated 08.01.2024.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The Court directed the Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Jaipur, Director, Social Welfare Department, Jaipur, and Assistant Director, Social Welfare Department, Banswara to appear in person on 28.07.2026 at 02:00 P.M. to show cause why they should not be punished with imprisonment and why their salaries should not be attached until compliance with the order dated 18.01.2023.

§ Contempt of Courts Act, 1971

Amra vs Dr. Samit Sharma (Secretary)

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.
High Court of Rajasthan (Jodhpur)	24.07.2026	S.B. Writ Contempt Petition No. 183/2024

CITATION	BENCH
Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur	Justice Ashok Kumar Jain

Constitutional & Fundamental Rights

ANDHRA PRADESH HC

Arbitrary Rejection of Objections to Voters' List Without Reasoned Order

Why it matters. Administrative authorities must now ensure reasoned disposal of objections and afford fair hearing before rejecting them. Cryptic orders are liable to be set aside, reinforcing natural justice in election-related disputes.

> *The impugned order does not reflect that if the petitioner was given opportunity to make his submission. Having regard to the above, the impugned proceedings are set aside.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The Court set aside the impugned order rejecting the petitioner's objections dated 17.07.2026. The matter is remanded to the Election Officer for passing a reasoned order after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner. The final voters' list must be prepared strictly in accordance with the audited membership records for the year 2024-25 and Proceedings Rc.No.2670924/C/2025 dated 07.04.2026.

§ Article 226, Constitution of India

Bommidi Venkateswara Rao v. State of Andhra Pradesh

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	CITATION
Andhra Pradesh High Court	24.07.2026	WP/20338/2026	2026 (APHC) 20338

BENCH

Smt. Justice Kiranmayee Mandava

Contracts & Business Disputes · Service Level Agreem... MADHYA PRADESH HC

Agreement Proved Despite Denial and Sham Transactions

Why it matters. Handwriting expert reports are unreliable without corroboration and courts must compare signatures with admitted documents executed on the same date. Sham transactions at undervalue to defeat rights are void and will be set aside.

> *The sale deed Exhibit D-25 executed by defendant No.1 in favour of defendant No.2 as already noted above, is only a sham transaction just to frustrate the agreement in question and to manipulate and leverage defendant No.1 in executing sale date in favour of defendant No.2 at less than half the guidelines/circle rates.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The High Court allowed the appeal, set aside the trial court's judgment and decree dated 31.12.2021, and decreed the plaintiff's suit for specific performance. The Court directed the defendants to execute a sale deed for their 83.34% share in favor of the plaintiff within 60 days from the date of the judgment, failing which the plaintiff would be at liberty to get the decree executed as per law. The Court also awarded costs to the plaintiff.

§ Specific Performance, Indian Contract Act, 1872

Surendra Yadav vs Atul Sehgal

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.	BENCH
Madhya Pradesh High Court	23.07.2026	First Appeal No. 302 of 2022	Justice Vivek Jain

Tribunals

2 judgments in this edition

KEEP SWIPING >>>

Contracts & Business Disputes · Service Level Agreements (SLAs) &... CESTAT

Extended Limitation Period Requires Proof of Fraud

Why it matters. Revenue must now adduce concrete evidence of fraud or suppression to invoke extended limitation periods in service tax disputes, not merely rely on third-party data discrepancies.

> *Every non-payment/non-levy of tax doesn't attract extended period. There must be some positive action which betrays negative intention of wilful default.*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

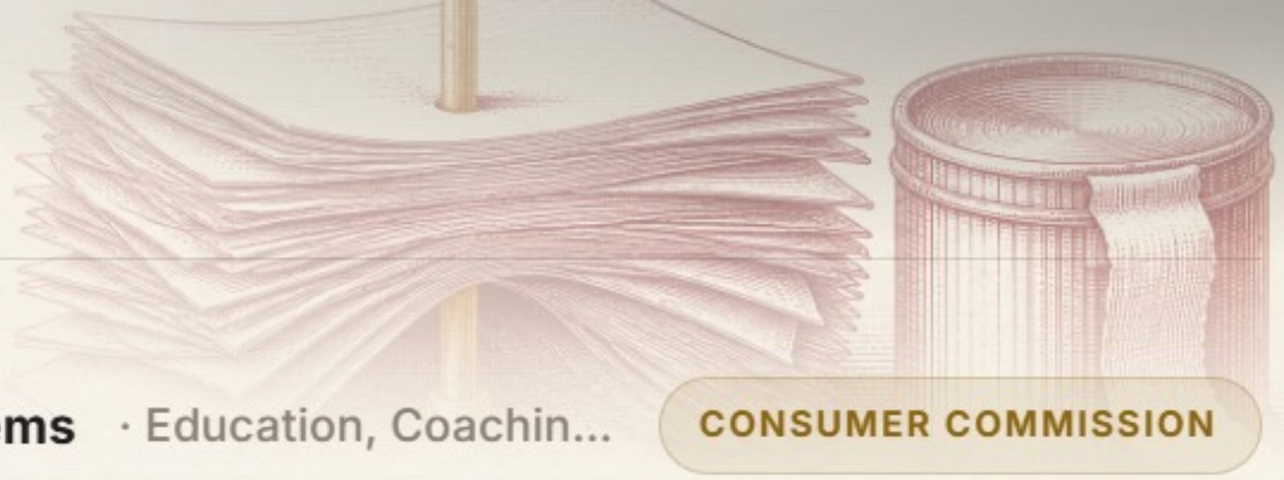
The Court held. The CESTAT allowed the appeal on limitation grounds, quashing the demand of Rs. 9,22,761 and setting aside the impugned order dated 18.04.2024. No penalties or interest were imposed due to the dismissal of the demand.

§ Section 73(1), Finance Act, 1994

M/S Cheema Constructions vs Chandigarh-I

COURT	DECIDED
Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	24.07.2026

CASE NO.	CITATION	BENCH
Service Tax Appeal No. 60401 of 2024	Final Order No. 60464/2026	Hon'ble Mr. S. S. Garg



Consumer & Service Problems · Education, Coachin... CONSUMER COMMISSION

Educational Institutions Not 'Service Providers'

Why it matters. Practitioners must now advise clients that disputes relating to admission fees in educational institutions cannot be pursued before consumer fora, as education is not a commodity and educational institutions do not fall within the ambit of 'service providers'.

> *Institutions rendering Education including Vocational courses and activities undertaken during the process of pre-admission as well as post-admission and also imparting excursion tours, picnics, extra co-curricular activities, swimming, sport, etc. except Coaching Institutions, will, therefore, not be covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986*
>
> FROM THE JUDGMENT

The Court held. The Court allowed the appeal, set aside the District Commission's order dated 02.06.2017, and held the complaint not maintainable. No costs awarded. Statutory amount, if any, to be returned to appellants.

§ Consumer Protection Act, 1986

District Education And Training ... vs Shiv Raj Singh

COURT	DECIDED	CASE NO.
State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Uttarakhand	23.07.2026	SC/5/A/110/2017

CITATION	BENCH
SC/5/A/110/2017	Ms. Kumkum Rani, Mr. C.M. Singh

Also decided today

§ Section 28, Land Acquisition Act, 1894 — BOMBAY HC

Interest On Compensation Runs From Award Date

Practitioners must now ensure interest calculations start from the award date under Section 11 in all land acquisition cases.

FA/164/2025 · 2026:BHC-AUG:30879 · 24.07.2026

§ Sections 143, 302, and 324, Indian Penal Code, 1860 — GAUHATI HC

Conviction Upheld for Murder in Community Hall Dispute

Practitioners must note that the right of private defence is not automatic and must be established by cogent evidence.

Crl.A./204/2022 · GAHC010153962022 · 24.07.2026

§ Sections 498A, 323, 506, Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 3 and 4, Dowry ... — KARNATAKA HC

Delay and Compromise Extinguish Liability

Practitioners must now emphasize prompt complaint lodging and consider compromise decrees as potential case-ending events in matrimonial disputes.

CRL.A/100402/2024 · 2026 SCC OnLine Kar 1234 · 24.07.2026

§ Section 4, Employees Compensation Act, 1923 — BOMBAY HC

Actual Wages Apply Post-2009 Amendment

Lawyers must now argue for compensation based on actual wages, as statutory caps cannot override 2009 amendment's removal of deeming provisions.

Review Application No. 21 of 2026 in FA/234/2024 · RA 21.2026 · 23.07.2026

Also decided, continued

§ Section 166, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 BOMBAY HC

Contributory Negligence Reduces Compensation by 50%

Practitioners must now argue apportionment of liability in motor accident claims and itemize compensation under specific heads.

First Appeal No.344 of 2010 · 2026:BHC-AUG:30514 · 23.07.2026

§ Article 226, Constitution of India BOMBAY HC

Non-teaching staff parity claim rejected

Practitioners must advise clients that policy-based incentives for awards are discretionary and not justiciable unless arbitrary.

Writ Petition No. 11194 of 2015 · 2026:BHC-AS:30542-DB · 23.07.2026

§ Section 69, Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 BOMBAY HC

Quashing Permissible Where Parties Amicably Settle Personal Disputes

Practitioners can now argue for quashing of FIRs under Section 69 BNS where parties amicably settle personal disputes.

Criminal Application No. 2117 of 2026 + Criminal Application No. 2118 of 2026 · 2026:BHC-AUG:30353 · 23.07.2026

Every judgment here, analysed in full.

All 18 judgments in this digest are reported in full on Cassie, with the facts, the reasoning and the precedents each court engaged with.

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Which of these will change how you argue next week? Tell us in the comments.