REPORT NO.
166

सत्यमेव जयते

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SIXTH REPORT
ON THE SUBJECT
"REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF TRIBUNAL SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY"

(*Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 2026*)

(*Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 7th August, 2026*)

भारतीय संसद, राज्य सभा

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA,
RAJYA SABHA

Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
August, 2026 /Sravana 1948 (Saka)

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C O N T E N T S

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

(Constituted w.e.f. 26th September, 2025)

1. Shri Brij Lal — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Naveen Jain
3. Shri Manan Kumar Mishra
4. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla
5. Shri Vivek K. Tankha
6. Shri Kapil Sibal
7. Dr. Menaka Guruswamy*
8. Dr. Jyoti Nagnath Waghmare*
9. Vacant#
10. Vacant@

LOK SABHA

11. Shri M. Mallesh Babu
12. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
13. Shri Arup Chakraborty
14. Shri Gaddigoudar Parvatagouda Chandanagouda
15. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
16. Shri Varun Chaudhry
17. Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste
18. Shri Dineshbhai Makwana
19. Shri Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi
20. Adv. Gowaal KagadaPadavi
21. Shri Gyaneshwar Patil
22. Shri Radhakrishna
23. Shri A. Raja
24. Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao
25. Shri Saleng A. Sangma
26. Shri Pushpendra Saroj
27. Shrimati Manju Sharma
28. Shri Abdul Rashid Sheikh
29. Shri Mahendra Singh Solanky
30. Shri K. Sudhakaran
31. Shri Lalji Verma

***Nominated w.e.f. 03rd June, 2026 against vacancies created due to retirement of Shri Ranjan Gogoi on 16th March, 2026 and Shri N.R. Elango on 02nd April, 2026**

#Vacancy created due to resignation of Shri C. Ve Shanmugam on 07th May, 2026

@ Vacancy created due to resignation of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray on 09th June, 2026

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P Narayanan, Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Indira Chaturvedi Vaidya, Director
3. Shri Kuldip Singh, Deputy Secretary
4. Ms. Purva Khanna, Under Secretary
5. Shri Mohammad Adil Khan, Assistant Executive Officer
6. Shri Divyanshu Kant, Security Assistant
7. Shri Siddharth, Senior Secretariat Assistant
8. Shri Deepanshu Tatwal, Senior Secretariat Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this One Hundred Sixty Sixth Report on the Subject **'Review of Functioning of Tribunal System in the Country'.**

2. While examining the Subject, the Committee held extensive deliberations with the stakeholders and heard the views of Registrar, Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) and the Additional Member (Commercial), Railway Board on 11th June, 2025; Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Registrar General, National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Registrar, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on 10th November, 2025; Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, and Director, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) on 20th November, 2025; and Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, and President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on 30th December, 2025.

3. The Committee, while making its observations/recommendations, has mainly relied upon the background notes on the subject furnished by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT), Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), National Green Tribunal (NGT), and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT); the presentations made before the Committee by the representatives of the Tribunals; the replies furnished by the aforesaid Tribunals to the questionnaires issued by the Committee on the subject; and the written replies furnished by them to the queries raised by the Members of the Committee during the course of its meetings.

4. The Committee wishes to place on record its gratitude to the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice; Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT); Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) and Railway Board; Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT); National Green Tribunal (NGT); and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for furnishing necessary information/documents and rendering valuable assistance to the Committee in its deliberations.

5. For the facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

6. The Committee considered and adopted the Report in its meeting held on 5th August, 2026.

New Delhi
5th August, 2026

Brij Lal
Chairman,
Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

ACRONYMS

Abbreviation	Full form
AAIFR	Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BIFR	Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
CIRP	Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process
CLB	Company Law Board
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CSC	Common Service Centre
CSR	Case Status Report
CZB	Central Zone Bench
DRM	Divisional Railway Manager
DoT	Department of Telecommunications
EZB	Eastern Zone Bench
FIR	First Information Report
FY	Financial Year
GAAR	General Anti-Avoidance Rules
IBBI	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
IBC	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
ITAT	Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
LDDDN	Loss, Destruction, Damage, Deterioration or Non-delivery
MLI	Multilateral Instruments
NCMS	National Court Management System

NCLAT	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal
NCLT	National Company Law Tribunal
NGT	National Green Tribunal
NICSI	National Informatics Centre Services Inc.
RCT	Railway Claims Tribunal
RP	Resolution Professional
SMS	Short Message Service
SPCB	State Pollution Control Board
SSC	Staff Selection Commission
SZB	Southern Zone Bench
TDSAT	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal
TRAI	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
UIDAI	Unique Identification Authority of India
WS	Written Statements
WZB	Western Zone Bench

CHAPTER-I

OVERVIEW OF TRIBUNAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

I. Introduction

1.1 Tribunals today occupy a central place in India's adjudicatory architecture. Conceived as specialized forums to provide speedier and more expert justice than ordinary courts in technically complex fields, they have become integral to the administration of public law, regulatory law, taxation, commercial law, environment, transport, and insolvency.

1.2 The rationale for tribunals has historically rested on two premises. The first is systemic: that ordinary courts, burdened by large and diverse dockets, may not be able to provide expeditious disposal in specialized subject areas. The second ground is functional: that many disputes, particularly in tax, company law, telecommunications, environment, and transport, benefit from adjudication by bodies that combine judicial method with domain knowledge. Therefore, Indian tribunals often have mixed compositions of judicial and technical, accountant, or expert members, and are generally permitted to follow procedures guided by the principles of natural justice rather than the full formalism of the Code of Civil Procedure.

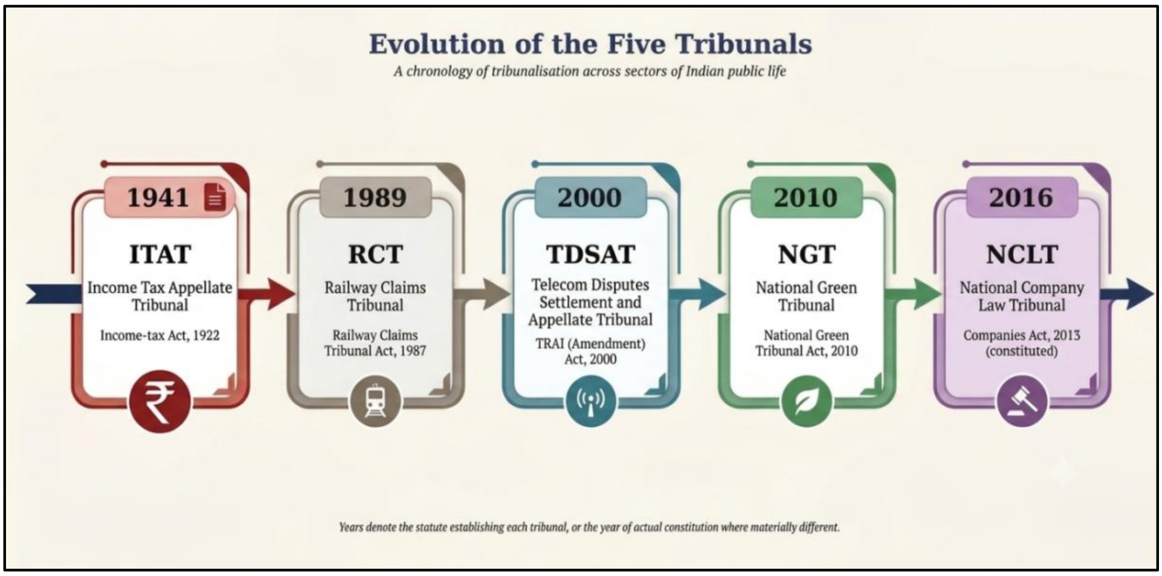
II. Tribunals in the Indian Constitutional Scheme

1.3 In Indian public law, a tribunal is generally understood as a statutory or constitutional adjudicatory body that exercises judicial or quasi-judicial power outside the ordinary hierarchy of civil and criminal courts. Tribunals are typically positioned midway between courts and administrative agencies, combining judicial method with domain expertise, and are intended both to relieve the docket pressure on ordinary courts and to provide specialist, speedier, and more accessible adjudication in technically complex fields.

1.4 The constitutional setting of tribunals lies in Part XIV-A of the Constitution, introduced by the Forty-second Amendment through Articles 323A and 323B, while their operational shape has been given by a large number of subject-specific statutes and by sustained judicial engagement with questions of jurisdiction, judicial review, and institutional independence. Article 323A empowers Parliament to establish administrative tribunals for disputes relating to recruitment and service conditions in public employment. Article 323B permits the appropriate legislature to establish tribunals for specified subject matters, including taxes, foreign exchange, industrial and labour disputes, land reforms, urban property ceilings, elections, essential commodities, rent and tenancy matters, related offences, and incidental questions. The constitutional text also authorizes Parliament or the legislature, in designing such tribunals, to specify jurisdiction, procedure, powers, and even exclusion of ordinary-court jurisdiction, subject to constitutional limits.

1.5 However, many important tribunals, including Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, National Company Law Tribunal, National Green Tribunal, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, and the Railway Claims Tribunal were created as a result of specific parliamentary statutes enacted outside immediate service-law context of Part XIV-A of the Constitution. Tribunalisation in India has, over time, evolved through a combination of constitutional provision, sector-specific legislation, and sustained judicial engagement with questions of jurisdiction, procedure, and institutional independence.

1.6 The five tribunals considered in this report namely, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT), Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), National Green Tribunal (NGT), and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) together demonstrate both the importance and the diversity of India's tribunal landscape. The timeline below traces establishment of these five tribunals, reflecting the manner in which tribunalisation in India has expanded across sectors over time:



1.7 During the course of examination, the Committee held meetings with representatives of the five Tribunals, as well as with officers of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and other ministries under whose mandate the relevant tribunal falls to elicit first-hand information on their functioning. The succeeding chapters, one devoted to each Tribunal, accordingly examine their historical evolution, statutory jurisdiction, and institutional structure, and go on to highlight some recurring concerns, including vacancies in Members and staff, deficits in technological and physical infrastructure, an increasing dependence on contractual and outsourced personnel, and mounting case pendency, among other issues. While each Tribunal operates within its own statutory and sectoral context, the common threads that emerge across these chapters point to systemic challenges that merit sustained attention and coordinated action by all stakeholders.

CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF THE INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (ITAT)

I. Introduction

2.1 The origin of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal predates the constitutional era of tribunals in India. Acting on the recommendations of a Select Committee in 1938, the Tribunal was established on 25 January 1941 under Section 5A of the Income Tax Act, 1922 as an independent appellate body for adjudication of tax disputes. The institution was conceived to provide specialized and impartial adjudication in tax matters and has continued to retain its distinctive character over the decades.

2.2 With the enactment of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Tribunal was continued under the new statutory framework and has since evolved into one of the most respected adjudicatory institutions in the country. Owing to its long history and influence on the development of specialized adjudicatory bodies in India, the ITAT is often regarded as the 'mother tribunal'. Its institutional design reflects the broader objectives underlying the tribunal system, namely specialized expertise, expeditious disposal of disputes and reduction of the burden on regular courts, while preserving adjudicatory independence and judicial oversight through appeals to the High Courts. The Tribunal occupies a pivotal position in the direct tax dispute resolution mechanism, acting as the final forum for re-examination of facts, evidence and accounting issues before matters proceed to constitutional courts.

II. Jurisdiction and Organizational Structure

2.3 The ITAT exercises jurisdiction over a wide range of direct tax disputes and serves as the second appellate forum under the Income-tax Act, 1961. In addition to appeals arising from assessment, penalty, revisionary, registration and exemption-related matters under the Income-tax Act, the Tribunal also adjudicates appeals under the erstwhile Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.

2.4 **Headquarters and Zonal Structure**: The Headquarters of the Tribunal is located at Mumbai, from where overall administrative coordination and institutional supervision are exercised. The Tribunal is headed by a President, who is often a sitting or former Judge of a

High Court with more than seven years of judicial experience. The office of the President provides judicial leadership, institutional continuity and adherence to constitutional values. For efficient administration and supervision, the Tribunal is organized into ten zones, namely, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad, Chandigarh and Lucknow, each headed by a Vice-President. This zonal framework ensures decentralized administration and uniformity in functioning, while preserving the independence of judicial decision-making at the level of individual Benches. Each zone, except Mumbai and Chennai, comprises multiple Benches functioning at different stations.

2.5 **Bench Structure:** The Tribunal ordinarily functions through Division Benches comprising one Judicial Member and one Accountant Member. In specified categories of cases, appeals may be heard by a Single Member Bench, while matters involving substantial questions of law or conflicting judicial precedents may be assigned to Special Benches comprising three or more Members, with reference to a Third Member where there is a difference of opinion between Members or coordinate Benches.

2.6 At present, the Tribunal functions through 63 Benches located at 28 stations across the country, supplemented by two Circuit Benches at Dehradun and Varanasi, ensuring wide geographical accessibility and reducing hardship to litigants. As on 01.05.2026, 22 Bench stations were fully functional, while 6 stations, together with the 2 Circuit Benches, were kept partially operational.

2.7 **Composition and Selection of Members:** The Tribunal is composed of Judicial Members and Accountant Members, who sit together in Benches and adjudicate collectively, ensuring a balanced synthesis of legal reasoning and accounting expertise. Members are appointed through a rigorous and transparent process conducted by a high-level Search-cum-Selection Committee, headed by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India, which ensures merit-based selection, independence and institutional integrity.

2.8 Judicial Members are selected from among advocates with more than ten years' professional experience, or officers of the Higher Judicial Services. Accountant Members are selected from among senior officers of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), not below the rank of Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, or from Chartered Accountants of 25 years' standing, which was reduced to 10 years' standing pursuant to the Supreme Court's judgment in *Madras Bar Association v. Union of India*, W.P. © No. 1018 of 2021, dated

19.11.2025. The qualifications, tenure and service conditions of Members are governed by the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the applicable framework governing tribunals.

III. Challenges before the Tribunal: Observations and Recommendations

i. Vacancies in Members and Registry Staff

2.9 The Committee was informed that the sanctioned strength of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal is 126 Members, including the President and 10 zonal Vice-Presidents. As on 01.05.2026, 98 Members were in position — 48 Accountant Members (including 3 Vice-Presidents) against a sanctioned strength of 63, and 50 Judicial Members (including the President and 7 Vice-Presidents) against a sanctioned strength of 63, leaving 27 posts vacant. The Committee was further informed that a recruitment process had been completed in December, 2025 and a select list of 16 candidates had been notified, which, upon appointment, would reduce the existing vacancies in the Tribunal.

2.10 While considering the progress made towards filling Member-level vacancies, the Committee observes that shortages in Registry and supporting staff continue to pose significant challenges to the effective functioning of the Tribunal. The Committee notes that all the seven sanctioned posts of Deputy Registrar are lying vacant. Similarly, against the sanctioned strength of 38 Assistant Registrars, only 10 posts have been filled on a regular basis, necessitating ad hoc arrangements for managing judicial and administrative work. The Tribunal also informed the Committee that vacancies exist in other key positions as well as within the Registry, including the post of Registrar, which directly impacts case management and administrative efficiency.

2.11 The Committee was further informed that the Tribunal has faced acute shortages in the cadre of Senior Private Secretaries and Private Secretaries, who play a vital role in assisting Members in judicial work, preparation of orders and overall bench administration. The recruitment to these posts had remained pending for prolonged periods, resulting in substantial vacancies and affecting the availability of adequate support staff to Members. The Committee notes that although recruitment has recently been undertaken to fill a number of these posts, shortages continue till date.

2.12 The Committee also takes note of the difficulties highlighted by the Tribunal in filling Group ‘C’ posts through direct recruitment. It informed the Committee that while vacancies are regularly reported to the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), a significant number of candidates sponsored against such vacancies either do not join or resign shortly after appointment owing to their higher qualifications and selection to other organizations. As a result, vacancies continue to persist despite repeated recruitment efforts.

2.13 The Committee is of the view that the efficiency of a judicial institution depends not only on the availability of Members but also on the adequacy of registry, administrative and support staff. Vacancies at various levels adversely affect scheduling of hearings, preparation of records, court proceedings, administrative supervision and overall case disposal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all vacant posts of Members in the Tribunal be filled in a timely and continuous manner so that the institution is able to function at its optimum capacity. The Committee further recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs, in coordination with the Tribunal, SSC and other concerned agencies, accord top priority to fill vacancies in the Registry and supporting cadres, particularly in the posts of Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Senior Private Secretary and Private Secretary.

2.14 The Committee also notes the recurring challenge faced by Government organizations in retaining candidates selected against Group ‘B’ and Group ‘C’ posts owing to the increasing trend of over-qualified candidates either not joining or leaving shortly after appointment. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Government should examine the feasibility of maintaining a reserve panel or waiting list of selected candidates, valid for a specified period, to facilitate expeditious filling of vacancies arising from non-joining or early attrition. Such a mechanism would help reduce delays in recruitment and ensure continuity in the functioning of the Tribunal.

2.15 The Committee also recommends that periodic manpower assessments be undertaken to evaluate staffing requirements across judicial, registry and support cadres and that vacancies be filled proactively so that administrative constraints do not impede the efficient delivery of justice.

ii. Pendency and Timely Disposal of Appeals

2.16 During the course of discussion, the Committee was informed that ITAT has maintained a sustained focus on expeditious disposal of appeals while ensuring adherence to principles of natural justice and quality adjudication. Data furnished by the Tribunal as seen in the Table 2.1 below indicates a significant reduction in pendency over the last decade despite a steady inflow of fresh appeals:

Table 2.1

Year	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
2014	46623	29817	100567
2015	39746	44644	95669
2016	46878	50719	91956
2017	49055	49906	91634
2018	50726	51366	91413
2019	50991	53144	89412
2020	14617	24256	79754
2021	15046	40473	54315
2022	21364	39096	38311
2023	29126	33008	34429
2024	47613	38370	43672
2025*	53192	52088	44776

* (as on 01.12.2025)

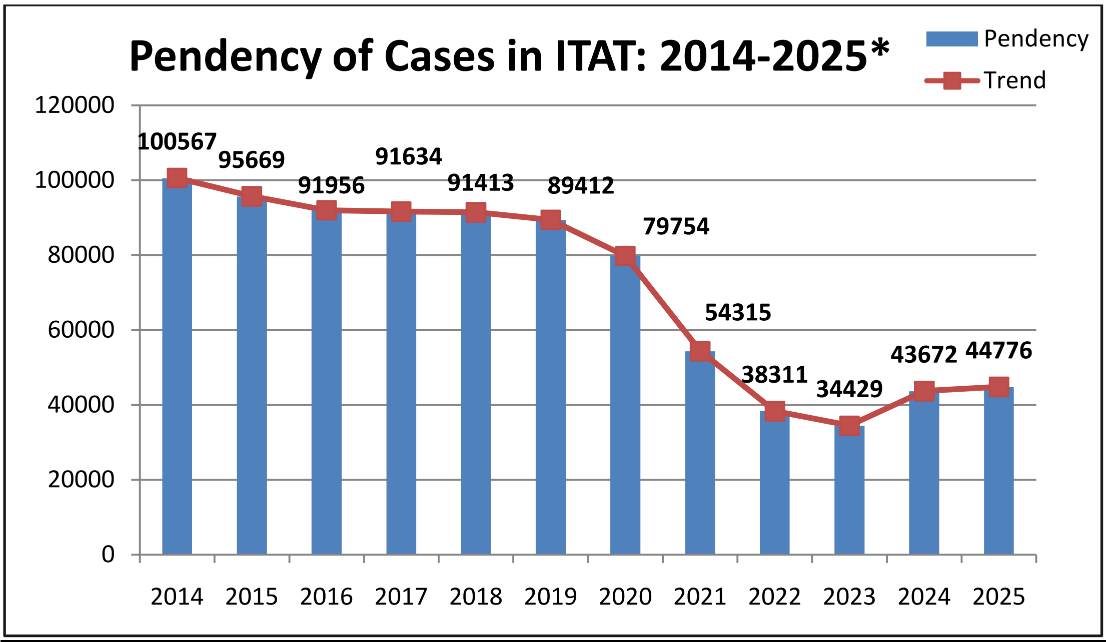
(Source: ITAT)

Table 2.2

Category	Pending Cases
Income Tax Appeals	44557
Wealth Tax Appeals	78
Black Money Appeals	141

(Source: ITAT)

Graph 2.1



* (as on 01.12.2025)

2.17 The Tribunal stated that pendency, which stood at 1,00,567 cases in 2014, declined to 43,672 cases by the end of 2024. As on 1 December 2025, the pendency stood at 44,776 cases. During the same period, it consistently disposed of a substantial number of appeals annually, reflecting sustained institutional efforts towards reducing backlog and improving case management.

2.18 During the deliberations, it highlighted that significant reductions in pendency has been achieved across major bench locations over the years through improved case management practices, increased utilization of technology and strengthening of institutional capacity. It further submitted that, except for certain legacy matters and cases awaiting decisions of Constitutional Courts, newly instituted appeals are generally listed for hearing within a short period and disposed of expeditiously. The average time taken for disposal of appeals is approximately six months, except in cases involving legacy disputes, matters remanded for rehearing, or cases awaiting the outcome of related proceedings before higher courts.

2.19 The Committee notes that despite a steady increase in the institution of fresh appeals, the Tribunal has maintained a high rate of disposal through improved case management practices and adoption of digital tools. As per the latest information furnished by the

Tribunal, the pendency of cases stood at 64,051 as on 1 May 2026, as against 44,776 cases reported as on 1 December 2025.

2.20 While the Committee appreciates the Tribunal's sustained efforts in reducing pendency over the long term, the sharp increase in pending cases by 19,275 cases within a period of five months warrants closer examination. The Committee therefore desires that the issue of sharp increase in pendency reported during the current period, may be examined and recommends that the Tribunal undertake a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to this rise, including trends in newly instituted appeals.

2.21 The Committee further acknowledges that the Tribunal has prescribed performance benchmarks for its Members, including a minimum disposal target of 50 appeals per month. As per the existing instructions of the Tribunal, orders are required to be pronounced as expeditiously as possible after conclusion of hearing and preferably within 60 days, with a further period of 30 days being permissible in exceptional circumstances after recording reasons. At the same time, it has reported that the average time taken for disposal of appeals is approximately six months.

2.22 The Committee is of the view that regular monitoring of compliance with such timelines is essential to ensure consistency in adjudication and to prevent accumulation of fresh arrears. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Tribunal strengthen monitoring mechanisms for adherence to the prescribed performance benchmarks and timelines relating to disposal of appeals and pronouncement of orders. The Committee also recommends that special attention be given to disposal of long-pending and legacy cases, particularly those involving recurring issues of law, so as to promote certainty in tax administration and reduce avoidable litigation.

iii. Digitalization and Technology Upgradation

2.23 The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has undertaken several initiatives towards digitalization of its judicial processes with a view to enhancing efficiency, transparency and accessibility. The Tribunal has implemented electronic filing of appeals and applications through its e-Dwar portal, enabling litigants and stakeholders to file appeals, applications and related documents electronically from any location. Since January 2023, all appeals and applications filed by the Income Tax Department have been submitted through the e-filing portal, while assessees are also increasingly availing of the facility.

2.24 Furthermore, the Tribunal has adopted paperless court proceedings and introduced virtual and hybrid hearing facilities across its benches. In compliance with judicial directions and evolving stakeholder requirements, virtual hearing facilities are available at all benches and no bench declines requests for virtual hearings. To strengthen digital accessibility, the Tribunal has also introduced technology-enabled cause lists, digital notice boards and online dissemination of orders through its official website.

2.25 The Tribunal has also developed internal digital platforms for judicial administration. The Committee was informed that the JudiSIS software is being used for preparation of cause lists, notices and judicial statements, while the Tribunal's website and e-filing portal have been re-developed and security-audited in accordance with prescribed cyber-security standards. The Tribunal has further migrated its digital applications to the NICSI Cloud Server at Bhubaneswar to strengthen data security and operational resilience.

2.26 The Tribunal had also voiced concerns regarding the obsolescence of existing computer hardware and software and the need for continuous technological upgradation. The Tribunal further informed the Committee that modernization of digital infrastructure is necessary to strengthen cyber security, ensure data integrity, and support virtual hearing facilities in the Tribunal.

2.27 While appreciating the substantial progress made by the Tribunal in digitizing its judicial and administrative processes, the Committee takes into account the concerns expressed by the Tribunal regarding ageing hardware, obsolescence of software systems and the increasing need for cyber-security safeguards. Given the sensitive nature of taxpayer information handled by the Tribunal, the Committee emphasizes that data security and digital resilience must remain a priority. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs provide adequate financial and technical support for periodic upgradation of hardware, software and video-conferencing infrastructure across all benches. The Committee further recommends that regular cyber-security audits, vulnerability assessments and data protection reviews be undertaken periodically to safeguard judicial records and taxpayer information.

iv. Infrastructure and Physical Facilities

2.28 The Tribunal highlighted the need for further strengthening of infrastructure, particularly at its Headquarters in Mumbai, which currently functions from an ageing office complex. The Tribunal also informed the Committee that sustained investment in courtrooms, information technology systems, video-conferencing facilities and digital infrastructure would be necessary to support expanding workloads and evolving technological requirements.

2.29 The Committee was informed that at present, the Tribunal functions through a network of benches operating from a combination of self-owned, Government-owned, semi-Government and rented premises across the country. The Tribunal informed the Committee that presently it has its own premises at Jaipur, Bengaluru, Cuttack, Delhi and Lucknow, while many other benches function from Government or semi-Government accommodation. The Committee was further informed that continuous efforts are being undertaken to strengthen the physical infrastructure of the Tribunal. New office buildings at Ahmedabad and Kolkata are at advanced stages of construction, while a new office complex at Guwahati is being developed in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India. Efforts are also being made to secure land or Government accommodation at Rajkot, Surat, Jodhpur, Ranchi and Jabalpur, where benches are presently functioning from privately rented premises.

2.30 The Tribunal emphasized upon the infrastructure constraints being faced at its Headquarters in Mumbai, which has outlived its intended life and requires replacement with a modern facility capable of meeting the operational requirements of the Tribunal.

2.31 The Committee believes that adequate physical infrastructure is essential for the efficient functioning of a judicial institution. Modern courtrooms, record management facilities, office space, digital infrastructure and appropriate facilities for litigants and Members of the Bar contribute significantly to the quality and efficiency of adjudication. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs accord priority to strengthening the physical infrastructure of the Tribunal across the country. The Committee particularly emphasizes the need for expeditious action towards establishing a permanent and modern headquarters for the Tribunal at Mumbai and completing the ongoing infrastructure projects at Ahmedabad, Kolkata

and Guwahati within the stipulated timelines. The Committee further recommends that efforts be intensified to reduce dependence on rented premises by securing suitable Government accommodation or land for benches currently functioning from private buildings.

v. Capacity Building and Emerging Tax Jurisprudence

2.32 ITAT has witnessed expanding jurisdiction with increasing complexity in tax litigation arising from the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025, as well as issues relating to international taxation, Multilateral Instruments (MLI), General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR), transfer pricing and other emerging areas of tax law. The Tribunal informed the Committee that these developments are expected to generate a new generation of disputes involving complex legal, financial and cross-border taxation issues.

2.33 During the deliberations, concerns were also expressed regarding the availability of specialized domain expertise within the Tribunal system. The Committee notes that income tax adjudication involves domain specific questions relating to taxation, accounting, commercial transactions, and international tax arrangements.

2.34 The Committee is therefore of the view that specialized tribunals derive their strength not merely from judicial experience but also from the availability of subject-matter expertise. In this context, continuous professional development assumes significance for Members drawn from diverse professional backgrounds. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Tribunal, in coordination with the Department of Legal Affairs and other relevant institutions, strengthen capacity-building initiatives for Members and Registry officials through regular training programmes, workshops and knowledge-sharing exercises. The Committee further recommends that special emphasis be placed on emerging areas of tax jurisprudence, including international taxation, transfer pricing, anti-avoidance measures and the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025.

2.35 The Committee also recommends that appropriate mechanisms be developed for continuous professional education and specialized orientation programmes for newly appointed Members so as to equip them with the requisite domain expertise in tax law and practice. Further, while making appointments to senior positions within the Tribunal, due consideration may be given to the importance of specialized knowledge

and experience in taxation and related fields, consistent with the applicable statutory framework. Such measures would help ensure that the Tribunal remains equipped to effectively adjudicate increasingly complex tax disputes and maintain its longstanding reputation as a premier specialized adjudicatory institution.

CHAPTER-III

REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF THE RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (RCT)

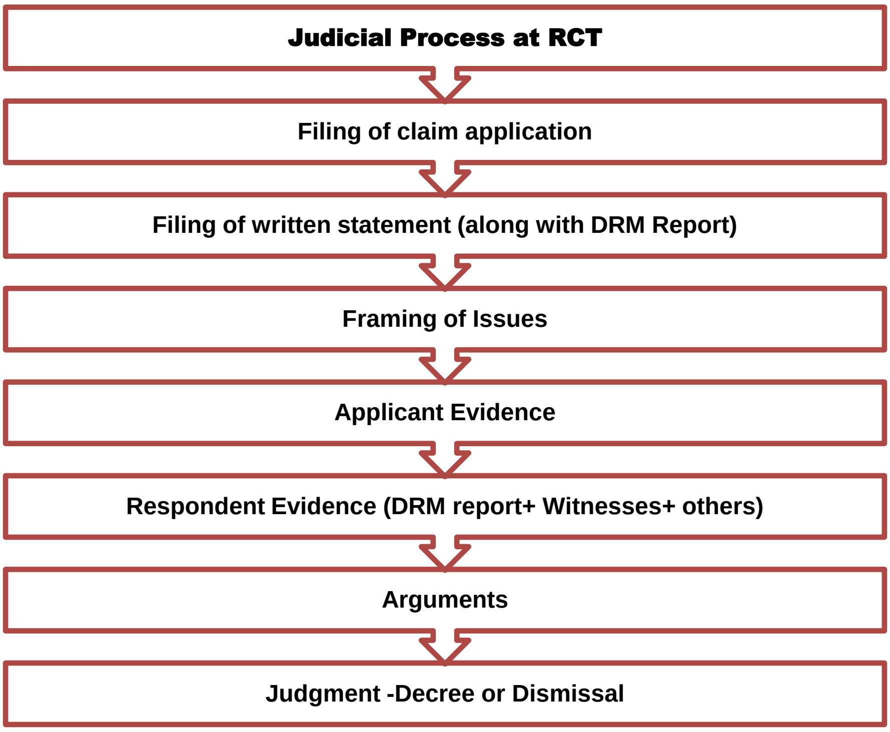
I. Introduction

3.1 The Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) was established under the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987 with a view to provide speedy and specialized adjudication of claims against the Railway Administration. Prior to the establishment of the Tribunal, claims relating to loss, destruction, damage, deterioration or non-delivery of goods and claims arising out of railway accidents and untoward incidents were adjudicated through civil courts and Claims Commissioners, resulting in prolonged litigation and delay in grant of relief to the affected persons. The Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987 came into force on 8th November, 1989. The Act provides for the establishment of a specialized Tribunal for inquiring into and determining claims against the Railway Administration.

II. Jurisdiction and Functions

3.2 The primary function of the Railway Claims Tribunal is to inquire into and determine claims relating to loss, destruction, damage, deterioration or non-delivery (LDDDN) of animals or goods entrusted to the Railways for carriage, claims for refund of fares or freight and claims for compensation in respect of death or injury arising out of railway accidents and untoward incidents. In terms of Section 15 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, the Tribunal enjoys exclusive jurisdiction over such matters.

3.3 The proceedings before the Tribunal commence with the filing of applications by claimants and end with the Tribunal passing its final order, either allowing or dismissing the claim. Such orders are executable as decrees of a civil court and appeals against the orders lie before the High Courts in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The step-wise proceedings at the Tribunal are depicted through the flowchart given below:



3.4 The Committee observes that the Railway Claims Tribunal constitutes an important mechanism for ensuring expeditious adjudication of claims and effective redressal of grievances arising out of railway accidents and other matters entrusted to it. The Tribunal also performs an important welfare function and contributes significantly towards ensuring access to justice for economically weaker and vulnerable sections of society, particularly migrant labourers and passengers travelling in ordinary classes.

III. Composition and Benches

3.5 The Tribunal is headed by a Chairman, traditionally a former High Court Judge, and presently functions through twenty-three (23) Benches located at twenty-one (21) places across the country. It is organized into four (04) Zones, namely North, South, East and West Zones, and has a sanctioned strength of forty-six (46) Members comprising four (04) Vice-Chairmen and equal numbers of Judicial and Technical Members. Administrative and supporting staff is provided by the Zonal Railways.

3.6 The Committee has been informed that a new Bench was established at Varanasi in June 2023 with a view to improve access to justice and bring the justice delivery mechanism closer to litigants in the North Zone. This initiative seeks to provide justice at the doorsteps of economically weaker and vulnerable sections of society.

IV. Challenges before the Tribunal: Observations and Recommendations

i. Vacancies in Members and Registry Staff

3.7 During the deliberations, the Committee was informed that vacancies existed in the posts of Judicial Members, Technical Members and supporting staff and that additional vacancies had arisen on account of retirement and completion of tenure of the functionaries.

3.8 **The Committee is of the considered view that adequate judicial and administrative manpower is indispensable for ensuring timely disposal of claims and efficient functioning of the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that vacancies in the posts of Members and supporting staff be filled in a time-bound manner. The Committee also recommends that the process for selection and appointment of Members be initiated well in advance of the anticipated occurrence of vacancies so that appointments are completed before the outgoing Members demit office, thereby ensuring continuity in the functioning of the Tribunal.**

ii. Institution, Disposal and Pendency of claims

3.9 The Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Railway Claims Tribunal, with a focus on reduction of pendency, improvement in procedural efficiency and strengthening access to justice for economically weaker sections of society.

3.10 The Committee was informed that Tribunal has demonstrated a sustained commitment towards reduction of case backlog and improvement in the efficiency of the adjudicatory process. As a result of various measures undertaken by the Tribunal, the overall pendency of cases has declined significantly from 26,309 cases as on 30 April, 2021 to 13,734 cases as on 30 April, 2025.

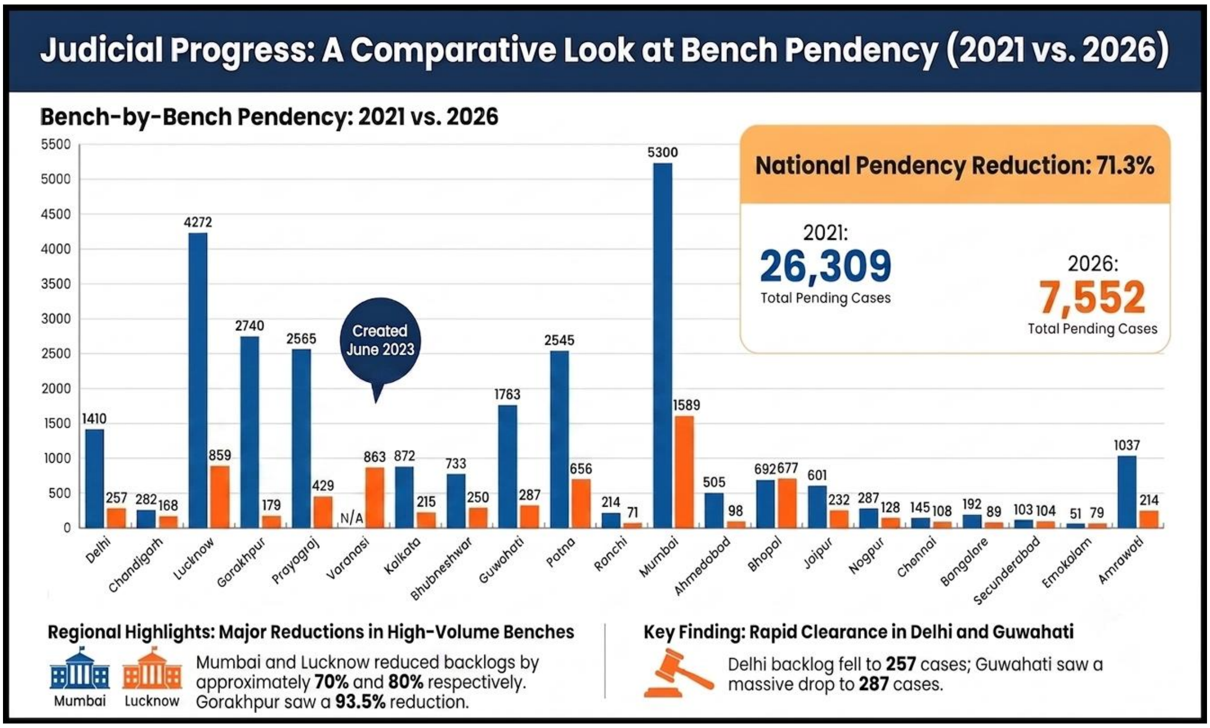
3.11 The Committee, however, observes that despite a substantial reduction in overall pendency, certain Benches continue to account for a disproportionately high share of pending cases, particularly in the North Zone. The pendency position in respect of major Benches is indicated in the table below:

Table 3.1

S.No.	Bench Name	Pendency in 2021 (As on 30.04.2021)	Pendency in 2025 (As on 30.04.2025)	Pendency in 2026 (As on 30.04.2026)
1	Delhi	1410	399	257
2	Chandigarh	282	71	168
3	Lucknow	4272	2122	859
4	Gorakhpur	2740	916	179
5	Prayagraj	2565	1534	429
6	Varanasi	Bench was created on 23rd June 2023	1380	863
7	Kolkata	872	352	215
8	Bhubneshwar	733	172	250
9	Guwahati	1763	349	287
10	Patna	2545	1806	656
11	Ranchi	214	90	71
12	Mumbai	5300	2656	1589
13	Ahmedabad	505	138	98
14	Bhopal	692	714	677
15	Jaipur	601	337	232
16	Nagpur	287	138	128
17	Chennai	145	77	108
18	Bangalore	192	64	89
19	Secunderabad	103	105	104
20	Ernakulam	51	60	79
21	Amrawati	1037	254	214
	Total	**26309**	**13734**	**7552**

(Source: RCT)

Graph 3.1



3.12 **The Committee notes that while all major Benches have recorded a decline in pendency, a substantial proportion of pending cases continues to be concentrated in certain regions. The Committee is of the view that such concentration warrants a closer examination of the underlying causes, including adequacy of infrastructure, manpower availability, workload distribution and other region-specific factors.**

3.13 The Committee appreciates the efforts made by the Railway Claims Tribunal in substantially reducing the overall pendency of cases during the last few years by taking various measures including constitution of Circuit Benches, adoption of hybrid modes of hearing and effective utilization of available manpower.

3.14 **The Committee, however, is of the considered view that sustained and targeted interventions are required in regions accounting for a disproportionately high share of pending cases. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways should undertake a comprehensive Region-wise and Bench-wise analysis of pendency trends, identify the factors responsible for concentration of cases in particular regions and formulate a time-bound strategy to address the structural bottlenecks so identified.**

For this, it should establish additional benches, if need be, in those regions where high case volume persists.

3.15 **The Committee further recommends that the performance of various Benches be periodically reviewed and appropriate measures be taken to sustain the momentum achieved in reduction of arrears and improve the overall efficiency of the adjudicatory process.**

3.16 The Committee notes that a substantial proportion of pendency of cases in RCT is attributable to delay in filing Written Statements (WS) by the Railways. These delays are largely caused by late submission or non-submission of DRM reports by Divisions. As a result WS were pending in 6,525 cases as on March 2021 and as per the latest data placed before the Committee, 1,526 cases are at WS stage.

3.17 The Committee further notes from submission made by the Tribunal that the average time taken by Railways to file Written Statements (WS) is stated to be 70 days and that DRM reports are prepared within 90 days after an untoward incident, on the basis of which WS is filed.

3.18 **In view of continuing pendency at WS stage, the Committee recommends that these indicative timelines be further reduced, with WS ordinarily filed within 45 days and DRM reports completed within 60 days, and that compliance be monitored Bench-wise through monthly reviews at Zonal and Railway Board levels.**

3.19 **The Committee was informed that high pendency in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Mumbai is linked to dense railway networks, high train frequency, large populations and behavioural factors such as foot-board travel, boarding/de-boarding moving trains and trespassing on tracks. While acknowledging the above factors, the Committee recommends that Ministry of Railways, in coordination with RCT, design targeted safety and awareness campaigns in these regions, and periodically review their impact on incidence of accident and claim filing.**

iii. Digital Transformation and E-Courts

3.20 The Committee notes that the Railway Claims Tribunal has undertaken several initiatives for modernization and digitization through implementation of the e-RCT Project and adoption of hybrid and virtual hearing systems. The ongoing e-RCT Project envisages the transition of the Tribunal to a paperless environment through introduction of e-filing facilities, online case information systems and digital payment gateways with the objective of ensuring expeditious disposal of cases and reducing the average time taken for adjudication.

3.21 **The hybrid and virtual hearing systems have facilitated greater accessibility and enabled advocates and litigants to participate in the proceedings remotely. However, the Committee observes that infrastructural deficiencies and shortage of manpower continue to impede optimum utilization of technology and the full realization of the benefits envisaged under the e-RCT Project. The Committee, therefore, recommends full implementation of hybrid and virtual court systems and strengthening of digital infrastructure across all Benches so as to improve accessibility and reduce inconvenience and logistical burden on litigants, particularly those residing in remote areas.**

3.22 **The Committee further recommends that RCT should introduce a fully digital filing system (e-filing) for claim petitions, provide real time case status tracking through a dedicated portal and mobile application and facilitate virtual hearing for parties residing far from Tribunal Benches. To this end, adequate technical and administrative manpower should be provided and necessary infrastructure be created, so as to facilitate effective implementation of the e-RCT Project and ensure optimum utilization of technology in the functioning of the Tribunal.**

iv. Budgetary Issues and Financial Autonomy

3.23 The Committee notes that under Section 11 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, the Chairman has been vested with administrative and financial powers equivalent to those of a General Manager of a Zonal Railway. However, the Tribunal does not possess a separate capital budget and continues to depend upon the Ministry of Railways and Zonal Railways for meeting its infrastructural and technological requirements.

3.24 The Committee further notes that such dependence often results in delays in procurement of equipment, maintenance of office premises and implementation of developmental projects. The absence of a dedicated budgetary framework may also adversely affect the perception of the Tribunal as an independent quasi-judicial body.

3.25 **The Committee is of the considered view that financial autonomy constitutes an important prerequisite for strengthening institutional independence and efficient functioning of the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways examine the feasibility of providing a separate capital budget for the Railway Claims Tribunal so as to ensure timely availability of funds for infrastructure development, procurement of equipment and maintenance of office premises and to reinforce the institutional credibility and independence of the Tribunal as a quasi-judicial body.**

v. Special Powers and Proactive Initiatives

3.26 The Committee notes that the Railway Claims Tribunal has adopted several innovative and proactive measures aimed at reducing pendency, improving the efficiency of the adjudicatory process and ensuring timely delivery of justice. In exercise of the inherent powers conferred under Rule 44 of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1989, the Chairman has initiated suo motu claim proceedings in cases involving major railway accidents, including the Balasore train accident, thereby obviating the need for victims and their families to undergo the lengthy process of filing individual applications and facilitating expeditious grant of compensation.

3.27 The Committee notes that the Tribunal has also adopted the practice of constituting Circuit Benches and utilizing hybrid modes of hearing, particularly in high-pendency regions such as Patna and Lucknow, enabling advocates to participate in proceedings through video conferencing facilities. The Committee further notes that the so-called "Patna Module", whereby Benches with comparatively lower workload assist those having heavier caseloads through virtual hearings, has contributed towards effective utilization of available manpower and reduction of pendency.

3.28 **The Committee appreciates the initiatives undertaken by the Tribunal to enhance access to justice and improve the efficiency of its functioning. The organization of Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes and the implementation of a Legal Aid Scheme are commendable measures to ensure that litigants belonging to**

economically weaker sections are not denied access to justice on account of financial constraints. The ongoing e-RCT Project, envisaging the transition of the Tribunal to a paperless environment through the introduction of e-filing, online case information systems and digital payment gateways, is also a welcome initiative aimed at expediting the disposal of cases and reducing the time taken for adjudication.

3.29 **The Committee is of the considered view that such initiatives have significantly contributed towards expeditious disposal of cases and timely grant of relief to victims and their families. The Committee believes that these practices may serve as useful models for improving efficiency and effective utilization of resources.**

vi. Access to Justice and Procedural Reforms

3.30 The Committee observes that claimants often accept nominal settlements under unequal bargaining conditions, and railway officials remain hesitant to admit genuine claims in the absence of clear guidelines. The Committee also notes that although Rule 28 of the RCT (Procedure) Rules, 1989 prescribes a maximum of three adjournments per party, the Tribunal has itself identified adjournments as a significant contributor to pendency, and acknowledged that a lenient view is often taken in practice leading to delay in settlement of claims.

3.31 **The Committee is of the opinion that such an imbalance in bargaining power, coupled with the reluctance of railway officials to settle genuine claims, may adversely affect access to justice and impede timely resolution of deserving cases. The Committee, therefore, recommends that appropriate safeguards be introduced to ensure fairness, transparency and voluntariness in settlement proceedings, so as to encourage timely resolution of disputes in deserving cases. The Committee also emphasizes the need for strict adherence to the prescribed limit on adjournments and recommends that avoidable adjournments be firmly discouraged in order to prevent delays and ensure expeditious disposal of cases.**

vii. Compensation Framework

3.32 The Tribunal had submitted that the compensation quantum under the Railway Accidents and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Rules, 1990 has been revised only twice since its inception, from ₹2 lakh to ₹4 lakh in 1997, and further to ₹8 lakh in 2016, through periodic rule amendments. The Committee was also apprised of an instance wherein a fatal accident involving persons was not covered under the statutory definition of "passenger", illustrating the absence of a consistent framework for victims across differing circumstances. During the discussions, it was suggested that a model similar to the one followed in the civil aviation sector, may be considered for adoption wherein fixed and immediate compensation is provided to the families of victims.

3.33 **The Committee is of the considered view that a structured and standardized compensation framework would facilitate expeditious disbursement of compensation, ensure equitable treatment of victims, and reduce avoidable litigation arising from disputed or ad hoc settlements. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways examine the feasibility of introducing such a framework, particularly in fatal accident cases, on the lines of the civil aviation sector, so as to ensure timely relief to victims. The Committee further recommends that the claim procedure be simplified through the adoption of a standardized claim form, minimization of documentation where records are already available with the Railways, and provision of assistance desks to support claimant families at the time of filing.**

viii. Public Outreach and Awareness

3.34 The Committee observes that no dedicated mechanism presently exists within RCT to create public awareness about its functioning. RCT being a quasi-judicial authority, instead relies on the Railway Board to depute teams from time to time to inform prospective claimants about the filing process. The Committee further notes that pleadings before the Tribunal are presently confined to English or Hindi under Rule 4 of the RCT (Procedure) Rules, 1989, which may disadvantage claimants unfamiliar with either language, particularly where an accident occurs outside the claimant's home State. It also notes that legal aid facilitation, which is primarily the mandate of the State Legal Services Authorities, currently extends to only 9 of the 23 Benches of the Tribunal through informally enlisted volunteer advocates.

3.35 **The Committee is of the considered view that access to RCT depends significantly on public awareness of its role and procedures, and that the absence of a dedicated outreach mechanism, limited language accessibility, and uneven availability**

of legal aid facilitation may make it difficult for claimants, especially those without legal support, to approach the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that concerted efforts be made to enhance public awareness regarding the functioning of the Tribunal through multilingual dissemination of information and establishment of facilitation mechanisms at all Tribunal Benches. Such steps would improve accessibility and enable individuals to seek timely and effective redressal.

ix. Pre-litigation Settlement and Litigation Policy

3.36 The Committee notes the suggestions received during the course of examination regarding the introduction of pre-litigation mediation mechanisms and formulation of a comprehensive litigation policy to facilitate early settlement of disputes and reduce avoidable litigation. The Committee is of the considered view that a structured pre-litigation mechanism would resolve a substantial number of disputes at an early stage and thereby reduce the burden on the Tribunal and improve efficiency of the adjudicatory process.

3.37 **The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways examine the feasibility of introducing a structured pre-litigation mechanism with a view to facilitate early resolution of disputes and reduce avoidable litigation. The Committee further recommends formulation of a comprehensive litigation policy to guide decision-making in respect of settlement of claims and minimize unnecessary litigation.**

x. Universal Filing System of claims

3.38 The Committee, during the deliberations, highlighted that in Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, there is a provision of Zero FIR, which refers to the facility to register an FIR for any cognizable offence at any police station, irrespective of territorial jurisdiction, and then transfer it to the station that has proper jurisdiction.

3.39 **In this regard, the Committee recommends that a universal filing system on the lines of a "Zero FIR" model may be adopted to improve accessibility and facilitate filing of claims by litigants. Such a mechanism has the potential to enhance access to justice and reduce inconvenience to litigants. It would enable claimants to institute proceedings at any location without being constrained by territorial jurisdiction and would ensure seamless transfer of cases to the appropriate Bench having jurisdiction.**

3.40 **The Committee also recommends that RCT should create a digital interface between the Railway Claim Tribunal and Indian Railways for quick verification of passenger records and accident reports. For speedy disposal of cases, the RCT should utilise the technology and AI for scheduling and cause list preparation, as well as automated notifications through SMS and email regarding hearings. Orders may also be generated with the assistance of AI.**

CHAPTER-IV

REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF TELECOM DISPUTES SETTLEMENT AND APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (TDSAT)

I. Introduction

4.1 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act was enacted in the year 1997 providing for establishment of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Apart from regulatory functions, TRAI has been empowered to adjudicate upon disputes arising amongst Service Providers or between the Service Providers and a group of Consumers on matters relating to technical compatibility. Issues pertaining to interconnection between the Service Providers, revenue sharing arrangement between Service Providers and quality of telecommunication services and interests of consumers are also handled by the Tribunal. TRAI has also been vested with the power to issue directions to the Service Providers and appeals arising from its decisions are preferred before the High Court and further appeals to the Supreme Court. The jurisdiction of civil courts has been barred in the matter relating to TRAI.

4.2 The adjudicatory powers of TRAI were challenged before the Delhi High Court on the ground that TRAI did not possess jurisdiction to issue directions to Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in the latter's capacity as Licensor. The High Court held that TRAI does not possess the power to issue directions to the Government in latter's capacity as Licensor. The result of the above challenge was that no separate dispute settlement mechanism was available to adjudicate disputes between the Licensor and Licensee for a considerable period.

II. Evolution and Jurisdiction of TDSAT

4.3 In order to address the absence of a specialized adjudicatory mechanism for resolving disputes between the Licensor and the Licensee and also to strengthen the regulatory framework, the TRAI Act was amended in 2000 and the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) was constituted in May 2000. The Tribunal was established to adjudicate disputes and hear appeals with the objective of protecting the interests of service providers and consumers and promoting the orderly growth of the telecom sector. Subsequently, its jurisdiction was expanded to include broadcasting and cable services, cyber matters and airport tariff disputes, and Aadhaar-related appeals, thereby transforming it into a specialized multi-sectoral tribunal.

4.4 TDSAT exercises original and appellate jurisdiction in matters relating to telecommunications, broadcasting and airport tariff regulation, while its jurisdiction in cyber matters is appellate in nature. The Tribunal is not bound by the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but is guided by the principles of natural justice and empowered to regulate its own procedure. It also possesses the powers of a civil court in matters relating to summoning and enforcing attendance of witnesses, requiring discovery and production of documents, receiving evidence on affidavits, reviewing its decisions, and dealing with default or ex parte matters. Its orders in original jurisdiction are executable as decrees of a civil court. Appeals against its decisions in telecom, broadcasting, airport tariff and Aadhaar matters lie to the Supreme Court only on substantial questions of law, whereas appeals in cyber matters lie to the High Court.

4.5 The progressive expansion of TDSAT's jurisdiction has considerably enhanced its role as a specialized adjudicatory forum in various sectors. While the Tribunal has undertaken several initiatives to improve its functioning and meet the growing demands placed upon it, the expansion of its mandate has also brought into focus a number of institutional and operational issues relating to infrastructure, manpower, case management, digital adjudication and accessibility.

III. Challenges before the Tribunal: Observations and Recommendations

i. Members, Manpower and Technical Expertise

4.6 During the course of examination, the Committee was informed that the sanctioned staff strength of the Tribunal has remained unchanged since its establishment in 2001, despite a substantial increase in workload arising from the expansion of its jurisdiction. The Tribunal submitted that it is functioning with a sanctioned strength of 52 posts and has had to engage outsourced personnel to meet its operational requirements. TDSAT further informed the Committee that it requires additional Members, Officers and staff in different grades, including personnel with specialized technical expertise, to effectively discharge its responsibilities.

4.7 The Committee notes that the sanctioned strength of TDSAT has remained at 52 posts since its establishment, even when the disputes involve highly specialized technical issues requiring domain-specific expertise. The Committee therefore, feels that there is an urgent need to strengthen the Tribunal's human resources and technical capabilities. The Committee is of the view that the existing strength of Members and supporting staff may not be adequate to effectively address the expanded jurisdiction and growing caseload of the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should undertake a review of the Tribunal's sanctioned strength vis-à-vis its expanded mandate and enhance the sanctioned strength through the appointment of additional Members, Officers and technical experts, as required. The Department should also implement regular capacity-building and training programmes commensurate with the Tribunal's expanded mandate to ensure efficient and timely adjudication of disputes across its diverse areas of jurisdiction.

ii. Caseload, Pendency and Disposal of Cases

4.8 The Committee notes that widening jurisdiction of TDSAT has been accompanied by a steady increase in the number of original petitions, appeals, review applications and miscellaneous matters filed before the Tribunal. The Committee was informed that, as on 31 October 2025, a total of 18,459 cases had been instituted before the Tribunal since its inception, out of which 12,460 cases had been disposed of, leaving a pendency of 5,999 cases. Thus, the overall disposal rate of the Tribunal stands at approximately 67.5 per cent.

The details of cases instituted, disposed and pending for the years 2001-2025 is given in the table below:-

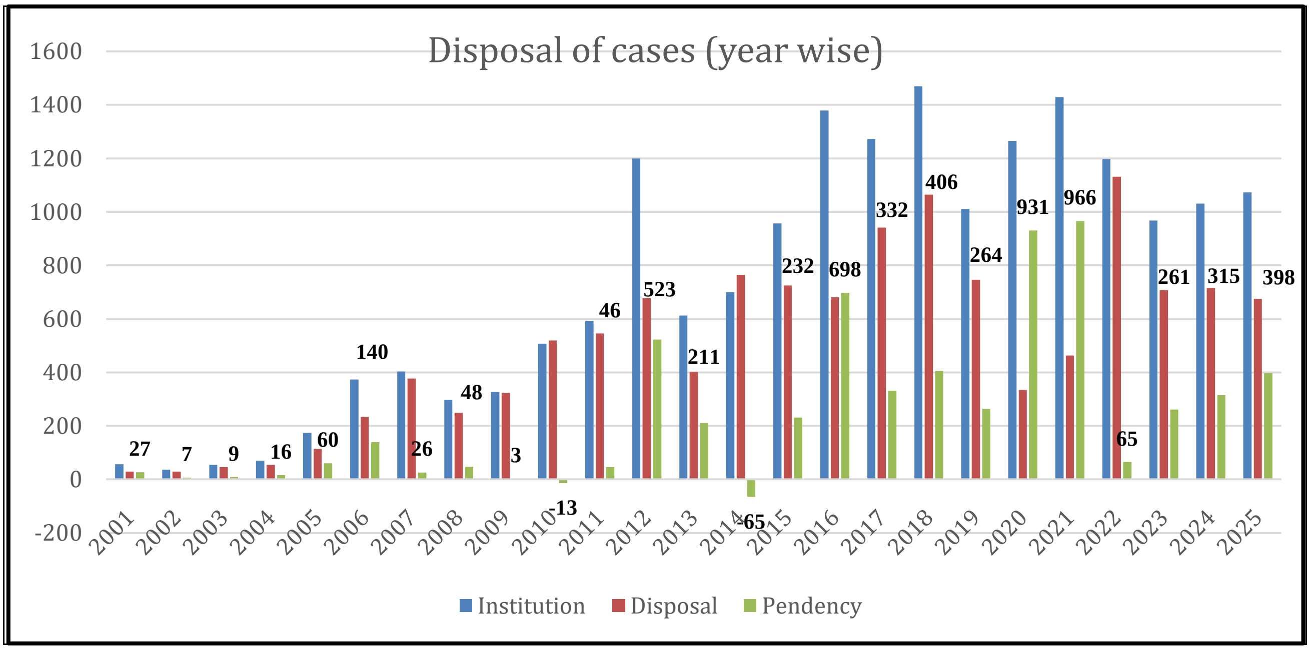
Table 4.1

Year	Institution	Disposal	Pendency	Disposal (%)
2001	57	30	27	52.63%
2002	37	30	7	81.08%
2003	55	46	9	83.64%
2004	70	54	16	77.14%
2005	174	114	60	65.52%
2006	374	234	140	62.57%
2007	403	377	26	93.55%

Year	Institution	Disposal	Pendency	Disposal (%)
2008	297	249	48	83.84%
2009	327	324	3	99.08%
2010	507	520	-13	102.56%
2011	592	546	46	92.23%
2012	1200	677	523	56.42%
2013	613	402	211	65.58%
2014	700	765	-65	109.29%
2015	957	725	232	75.76%
2016	1379	681	698	49.38%
2017	1273	941	332	73.92%
2018	1470	1064	406	72.38%
2019	1011	747	264	73.89%
2020	1265	334	931	26.40%
2021	1429	463	966	32.40%
2022	1197	1132	65	94.57%
2023	968	707	261	73.04%
2024	1031	716	315	69.45%
2025	1073	675	398	62.91%

(Source : TDSAT)

Graph 4.1



4.9 The Committee is of the considered view that timely adjudication of disputes is essential for ensuring regulatory certainty, promoting investor confidence and safeguarding the interests of stakeholders in the sectors under the jurisdiction of TDSAT. The Committee, therefore, recommends that TDSAT should formulate and implement a comprehensive, time-bound action plan for reducing the pendency of cases, with special emphasis on long-pending matters, by prioritizing their disposal, prescribing realistic timelines, and undertaking periodic monitoring and review of pendency.

iii. Infrastructure and Institutional Capacity

4.10 During the course of evidence, TDSAT informed the Committee that it has been functioning from rented premises at Hotel Samrat, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi and has repeatedly taken up the matter of permanent accommodation with the Government. The Tribunal submitted that a permanent office space has not yet been allocated and that the existing office accommodation is inadequate to meet its growing infrastructural requirements.

4.11 The committee is of the view that absence of a permanent office complex affects administrative efficiency, limits opportunities for future expansion and results in recurring expenditure on rented accommodation. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should provide adequate budgetary support for establishment of a permanent office complex equipped with modern courtrooms, digital infrastructure and other support facilities necessary for efficient discharge of the Tribunal's functions.

iv. Consumer Grievance Redressal Mechanism

4.12 During the course of deliberations, TDSAT submitted that its jurisdiction is primarily confined to disputes involving service providers, licensors, regulatory authorities and other matters specifically assigned under the relevant statutes. TDSAT also highlighted that the evolving nature of telecommunications services increasingly gives rise to technically complex consumer-related issues requiring specialized sectoral understanding.

4.13 The Committee was informed that individual telecom consumer grievances presently fall outside the jurisdiction of TDSAT and are largely addressed through consumer courts.

4.14 The Committee is of the view that consumer courts often lack sector-specific technical expertise and are burdened with substantial pendency, which may affect timely and effective resolution of telecom-related grievances. The Committee, therefore, recommends establishment of an independent Telecom Ombudsman and creation of a robust multi-tier grievance redressal framework within the telecom sector. The Committee further recommends that the Government examine the feasibility of extending TDSAT's jurisdiction to certain categories of specialized consumer disputes.

v. Digital Adjudication and Access to Justice

4.15 During the course of discussions with the Committee, TDSAT informed that it has adopted technology-enabled mechanisms for conduct of its proceedings and is adequately equipped to facilitate virtual hearings. The Tribunal stated that court proceedings are conducted through virtual mode on Mondays and in hybrid mode on Fridays. TDSAT further informed that the implementation of an e-filing system is at an advanced stage and is expected to become operational shortly. The Tribunal also highlighted the role of its Mediation Centre in promoting alternative dispute resolution and facilitating expeditious settlement of disputes.

4.16 The Committee notes that technological advancements and digital transformation have significantly altered the nature of disputes coming before the Tribunal. The Committee appreciates that TDSAT has adopted virtual and hybrid hearing mechanisms, its ongoing efforts to operationalize an e-filing system, and the establishment of a Mediation Centre to facilitate amicable resolution of disputes. The Committee believes that effective utilization of digital technologies is essential for improving accessibility, transparency and efficiency in adjudicatory processes.

4.17 The Committee feels that increasing caseloads and the expanding geographical footprint of stakeholders requires greater reliance on technology-enabled dispute resolution mechanisms. The Committee therefore, is of the view that robust digital infrastructure would not only improve case management and procedural efficiency but

also enable stakeholders across the country, particularly those located outside major urban centres, to access the Tribunal's services more conveniently and effectively.

4.18 The Committee, therefore, recommends strengthening digital adjudication systems through expansion of e-filing facilities, virtual hearings, digital record management and integrated case-management systems. The Committee further recommends development of user-friendly digital platforms for filing, monitoring and tracking complaints and disputes to enhance accessibility, transparency and timely disposal of cases.

vi. Aadhaar-related Jurisdiction and Public Awareness

4.19 During the presentation before the Committee, TDSAT informed that adjudication of Aadhaar-related appeals involves issues relating to digital identity, data protection, privacy and digital governance. The Tribunal further submitted that, as this jurisdiction is relatively recent, there is a need to enhance public awareness regarding the grievance redressal and appellate mechanisms available under the Aadhaar framework.

4.20 The Committee observes that, pursuant to the amendments made to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) framework and the conferment of appellate jurisdiction on TDSAT under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, the Tribunal has assumed an expanded mandate beyond its traditional domains. The Committee further notes that adjudication of Aadhaar-related appeals involves issues of privacy, data protection and digital governance, requiring specialized expertise.

4.21 The Committee also observes that public awareness regarding the mechanisms available for redressal of Aadhaar-related grievances, including the appropriate forum for filing appeals and the available appellate remedies, remains limited and may prevent citizens from effectively exercising their rights.

4.22 The Committee strongly feels that strengthening public awareness and accessibility is essential for ensuring an effective Aadhaar grievance redressal framework. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government, in coordination with the UIDAI and TDSAT, undertake sustained awareness and outreach initiatives through digital platforms, mass media campaigns, Common Service Centres

(CSCs), and other appropriate channels to educate citizens regarding Aadhaar grievance redressal mechanisms, available appellate remedies and procedures for approaching the competent authorities. The Committee further recommends that user-friendly guidance materials and online resources be made readily accessible to enable citizens to effectively avail themselves of the grievance redressal framework, particularly in rural and remote areas where awareness of appellate remedies may be limited.

CHAPTER-V

REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT)

I. Introduction

5.1 The National Green Tribunal (NGT), established in 2010, is a specialized body for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and natural resources. The Tribunal has flexible procedures that enable it to handle complex environmental issues efficiently. It plays a significant role in ensuring timely environmental justice, reducing the burden on higher courts, and improving access to justice through simplified processes, use of technology, and time-bound resolution of cases. The National Green Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908; instead, it is guided by the principles of natural justice; while being vested with powers of a civil court for discharging its functions.

5.2 India's environmental legal framework has evolved over time, drawing early inspiration from the Stockholm Conference, which laid the foundation for the concept of sustainable development. India's continued engagement with global environmental agreements, including the Montreal Protocol, the Rio Earth Summit, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, further strengthened its environmental policy and legal framework. Subsequent legislative developments, including the National Environmental Tribunal Act, 1995 and the Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997, along with the recommendations of the Law Commission of India in its 186th Report (2003), emphasized the need for specialized environmental adjudicatory mechanisms, ultimately leading to the enactment of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

5.3 India is among the few countries in the world to have established a specialized environmental tribunal of this nature; it is also the first developing country to do so. The National Green Tribunal has been constituted for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases and it also ensures the enforcement of legal rights relating to the environment and provides relief and compensation for damages to persons and property.

i. Structure and Staffing

5.4 The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 contains five Chapters; each dealing with a specific aspect of the Tribunal's functioning and provides the statutory basis for establishment, composition, jurisdiction, powers, proceedings, penalties and miscellaneous matters. The Tribunal has one Principal Bench at New Delhi and four zonal benches, namely the Western Zone Bench at Pune, the Central Zone Bench at Bhopal, the Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata and the Southern Zone Bench at Chennai. Principal Bench has approximately 100 to 125 staff members, while the zonal benches have staff strength varying from about 50 to 65.

ii. Composition of the Tribunal

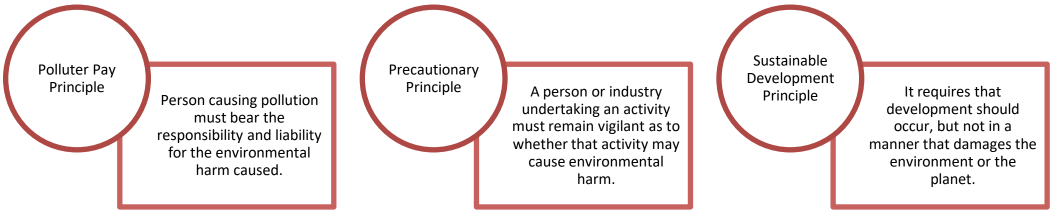
5.5 The Tribunal is headed by a full-time Chairperson, who is either a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court and it consists of Judicial Members from the legal field and Expert Members from technical and scientific backgrounds. This structure is essential, as environmental disputes demand expertise that extends beyond law to encompass areas such as coastal ecology, the Himalayan environment, river systems, vegetation, bio-diversity, industrial emissions, brick kilns, construction-related pollution and other forms of ecological impact. Under the statutory framework, the Tribunal is required to have not less than ten and not more than twenty Judicial Members, and with a corresponding minimum and maximum number prescribed for Expert Members.

iii. Jurisdiction and procedural features

5.6 The Tribunal's jurisdiction extends to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977; the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991; and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

5.7 Section 19 of the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 gives the Tribunal power to regulate its own procedure and the Tribunal entertains valid complaints, including letter petitions, concerning substantial environmental damage.

iv. Guiding Principles of the Tribunal



5.8 These principles serve as guiding norms when the Tribunal interprets and implements environmental law through its judgments.

II. Challenges before the Tribunal: Observations and Recommendations

i. Vacancies in Members and Registry Staff

5.9 The Bench-wise Sanctioned Strength of the NGT as on 18/07/2026 is seen in the table below:-

Table 5.1

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Total Sanctioned Strength of NGT	Vacancy	Delhi	Pune	Bhopal	Chennai	Kolkata	Person in Position
1.	Judicial Members	Min. – 10 Max. – 20	Min.- 6 Max.-16	1	1	1	1	0	4
2.	Expert Members	Min. – 04 Max. – 14	Min.– 04 Max.–14	2	1	1	1	1	6

(Source : NGT)

5.10 In relation to the above details, the Tribunal has stated that, under Section 4(1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, the prescribed strength is one Chairperson, not less than ten full-time Judicial Members and not less than ten full-time Expert Members, subject to the statutory upper limits. However, at present, the Tribunal is functioning with only 5 Judicial Members, including the Chairperson, and 6 Expert Members. The Tribunal also submitted that even the minimum statutory requirement is not being met, which is adversely affecting disposal of cases. It has also been informed that the process for appointment of Judicial and Expert Members is under progress at the end of the Central Government.

5.11 **The Committee emphasizes that expeditious filling of vacancies of Judicial Members and Expert Members is of critical importance. The Committee while noting that the Tribunal is functioning below the minimum statutory member strength recommends that Government accord the highest priority to complete the ongoing appointment process, so as to enable the Tribunal to function in conformity with the legislative framework of the NGT Act, 2010.**

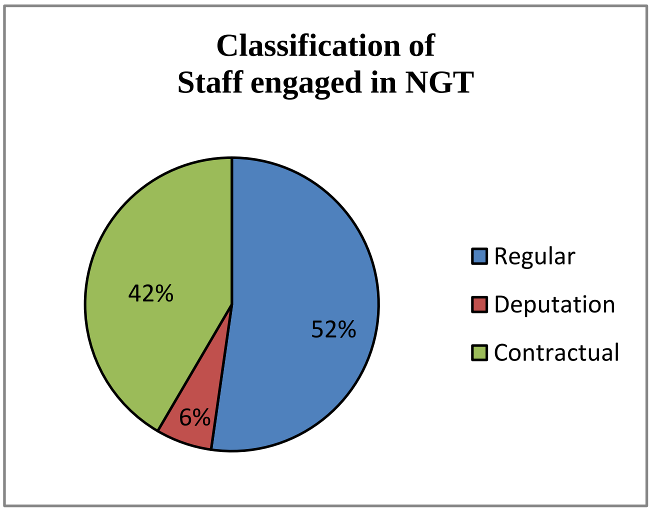
5.12 Bench-wise data of Staff engaged in NGT on Regular/Deputation/Contractual basis as on 18/07/2026 is given in the table below:-

Table 5.2

Bench-wise data of Staff engaged in NGT (Regular/Deputation/Contractual)			
Bench	**Regular**	**Deputation**	**Contractual**
Principal Bench (Delhi)	60	6	50
SZB(Chennai)	19	3	11
CZB(Bhopal)	14	2	17
WZB(Pune)	18	1	7
EZB(Kolkata)	16	3	16
Total:	127	15	101

(Source : NGT)

Chart 5.1



5.13 The Staff data indicates that the Tribunal is functioning with 127 regular personnel, 15 on deputation and as many as 101 contractual personnel across the Principal Bench and the zonal benches. It is also evident that out of total strength only 52 percent staff is regular and the remaining are from other sources.

5.14 **The Committee notes that NGT is substantially dependent on contractual manpower for its day-to-day functioning which leads to slow disposal of cases thereby increasing pendency. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the staffing structure of the Tribunal be reviewed comprehensively expeditiously to reduce excessive dependence on contractual manpower for ensuring stable Bench-wise availability of regular administrative, judicial, registry and technical support personnel.**

5.15 **The Committee also notes that although 166 staff posts are sanctioned across NGT, only 142 are presently in position, with gaps at several levels and uneven Bench-wise distribution, including zero in-position Registrar posts at Chennai bench and shortfall in key posts such as Section Officers, Private Secretaries and Assistant (Judicial) staff (Annexure-I). The Committee is of the view that this persistent under-staffing, coupled with an over-reliance on multi-tasking and ad hoc arrangements, undermines efficient case management, registry functioning and compliance monitoring, and exacerbates delays and pendency across benches. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the administrative Ministry, in consultation with the Tribunal, undertake a time-bound Bench-wise staffing audit and fill all sanctioned posts in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' cadres, prioritizing critical court-management and registry positions at zonal benches where vacancies are most acute.**

ii. Institution, disposal and pendency of cases

5.16 During the deliberation, the Tribunal informed the Committee that, since its inception, a total of 55,619 cases had been received, out of which 49,740 had been disposed of and about 5,879 cases were pending, as on 30th June 2026. The Tribunal further stated that, during the last five years, a majority of cases at the Principal Bench, New Delhi, have been decided within the six-month period as contemplated in the NGT Act, 2010.

5.17 The Zone-wise details of the Pendency as on 31/05/2026 are given in the table below:-

Table 5.3

Zone-wise Pendency as on 31/05/2026	
Bench	**Pendency**
Principal Bench (Delhi)	2318
SZB(Chennai)	887
CZB(Bhopal)	277
WZB(Pune)	1730
EZB(Kolkata)	587
Total:	5799

(Source : NGT)

5.18 The Zone-wise pendency of cases before the National Green Tribunal as on 31 May 2026 shows that the highest number of pending cases is before the Principal Bench at Delhi (2,318), followed by the Western Zone Bench at Pune (1,730). The Southern Zone Bench at Chennai has 887 pending cases, the Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata has 587, and the Central Zone Bench at Bhopal has 277 pending matters. The total number of pending cases across the Principal Bench and all zonal benches is 5,799.

5.19 The details of cases for the last five years in National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench as well as Zonal Benches are mentioned in the table below:-

Table 5.4

Details of cases for the last five years in National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench as well as Zonal Benches					
Sr. No.	**Year**	**Cases forward from previous year**	**Institution**	**Disposal**	**Cases forward to the next year**
1.	2021	2656	2381	2600	2390
2.	2022	2390	3170	3497	2001
3.	2023	2001	3699	2882	2818
4.	2024	2818	4694	3294	4219
5.	2025	4219	5074	3642	5639

(Source : NGT)

5.20 The above figures indicate that pendency has shown a rising trend in last three years. The number of carried-forward cases stood at 2390 at the end of 2021, declined to 2001 at the end of 2022, while again rising to 2818 by the end of 2023. This upward movement continued sharply thereafter, with pending cases reaching 4219 at the end of 2024 and further rising to 5639 by the end of 2025. This surge in 2024 and 2025 can be attributed to the number of new cases filed substantially outpacing the number disposed of, leading to a significant buildup of pending matters. The Committee observes that the institution is presently under mounting pressure and requires strengthening in member strength, staff support and case-management capacity.

5.21 The details of number of cases, pending for more than three years at NGT as per submissions made on 22/07/2026 are mentioned in the table below:-

Table 5.5

Number of cases pending for more than three years at NGT	
Bench	**Pendency**
Principal Bench (Delhi)	208
SZB(Chennai)	93
CZB(Bhopal)	15
WZB(Pune)	147
EZB(Kolkata)	26
Total:	489

(Source : NGT)

5.22 The Committee notes that while the Tribunal has stated that a majority of cases were disposed of within six months during the last five years. However, the submissions made by the Tribunal reveal aggregate pendency of around 489 cases which are pending for more than three years as on 22/07/2026.

5.23 The Committee also notes that long pendency affects numerous matters involving continuing environmental degradation and public health concerns, such as restoration of rivers and water bodies, fly ash management, industrial pollution, illegal mining, sewage discharge, hazardous gas leakage, and large infrastructure and construction projects. A considerable number of these cases have been adjourned sine die on account of similar proceedings before the Hon’ble Supreme Court, while many others remain on the active board with future hearing dates. Such a scenario shows that delay arises both by cases linked to the Higher Courts and by the Tribunals's own working in handling ongoing environmental matters.

5.24 **The Committee believes that the prolonged pendency in such matters may weaken deterrence, reduce the practical impact of remedial directions, and permit environmental harm to continue or worsen over time, particularly where interim arrangements and partial compliance are allowed to persist without time-bound final resolution. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a separate mechanism be evolved for identification and tracking of cases pending for more than three years, including a categorisation of such matters based on the stage of adjudication in order to help distinguish unavoidable delay from remediable delay and permit more focused intervention.**

iii. Infrastructure and Digital Transformation

5.25 The Tribunal has informed that e-filing had been introduced even before the onset of COVID-19 pandemic and hybrid hearings are now being used to facilitate participation from remote areas across the country. It has also been informed that physical filing is now confined largely to letter petitions and suo motu matters. The Tribunal added that its Case Information System allows users to check real-time case status, improves transparency, assists registry functioning and helps monitor compliance. Virtual hearings have widened access, increased attendance of respondents, ensured continuity during emergencies such as COVID-19, and enabled multiple benches to coordinate efficiently, contributing to faster listing, fewer adjournments and reduced pendency.

5.26 During the interaction held with the Committee, it was highlighted by the Tribunal that petitions can be filed entirely online and parties, including citizens in far-flung regions such as Sikkim or Kutch, can access the Tribunal without having to travel to the Principal or zonal benches. It was further clarified that grievances may reach the Tribunal not only through formal petitions but also through letter petitions, newspaper reports and other material containing substantial facts, including geo-tagged photographs, which can form the basis for the Tribunal to take cognizance, consistent with its suo motu jurisdiction as recognised by the Supreme Court.

5.27 **The Committee observed that despite digital systems, many litigants still face delays and difficulty in getting timely relief in various cases. At the same time, it**

recognizes that the Tribunal has made real progress in online filing, virtual hearings and wider access for citizens and stakeholders, and considers that such facilities can help in faster disposal of cases and better monitoring of compliance with NGT orders.

5.28 **The Tribunal has informed that one of the key challenges it is facing is the lack of dedicated computer section and related technical posts. The Committee finds it unusual that, at a time when the Government is vigorously promoting the digitalization, an institution as important as the National Green Tribunal continues to function without a dedicated Computer/IT Section and the required technical posts. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a dedicated Computer/IT Section, with appropriate technical posts and supporting staff, be established and operationalized at all the Benches of the Tribunal to ensure reliable digital infrstructure and effective use of technology in its functioning.**

5.29 **While appreciating the steps already taken on e-filing, hybrid hearings and case information systems, the Committee recommends that digital tools be further used to improve listing, case tracking, transparency and access for litigants from remote and environmentally vulnerable areas, so that the benefits such as quicker listing, fewer adjournments and better monitoring are fully realised in practice.**

5.30 **The Committee further recommends that official website of the Tribunal should incorporate a dashboard displaying Bench-wise status of disposal of cases as well as other relevant figures for the Tribunal as a whole so that the public and policymakers can easily assess the efficiency and performance of the NGT and each of its benches.**

iv. Public Outreach, Awareness and Conferences

5.31 The Tribunal has informed that it has consciously pursued outreach and awareness activities and organised several national and international conferences to sensitise stakeholders, beneficiaries and students on issues of substantial environmental importance, including global environmental issues and the rule of law in support of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

5.32 The Tribunal has also submitted that the conferences have been attended by various dignitaries of the country and that more than 5,000 persons have benefited from such events. It has also been informed that a two-day National Conference on Environment was held at

Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 29–30 March 2025, with participation from departments across the country, and that regional and international conferences are planned to ensure wider coverage and outreach.

5.33 **The Committee welcomed these efforts of the Tribunal. However, it emphasizes that such programmes must translate into more effective enforcement and timely remedial action on the ground. Particular importance may be accorded to issues pertaining to areas such as air pollution, illegal mining, river pollution, invasive species and urban ecological imbalance.**

5.34 **The Committee is of the view that awareness-building and capacity development undertaken by the Tribunal are valuable. However, adjudicatory processes, follow-up mechanisms and enforcement needs to be strengthened, so that the expectations generated by these initiatives are matched by visible improvements in environmental outcomes.**

5.35 **The Committee recommends that NGT, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and State authorities, should organise structured and sustained awareness programmes to educate the public about its mandate and functioning, particularly with regard to the types of environmental matters within its jurisdiction and the procedures for seeking redressal.**

v. Implementation of Orders and Compliance Concerns

5.36 The Committee raised concerns about the implementation of NGT orders by regulatory authorities and public agencies, particularly where the alleged polluters were State-owned entities or departments. In its submission, the Tribunal clarified that it does not possess a separate dedicated agency or wing for enforcement of its judgments or orders and enforcement is carried out either by the concerned Government stakeholders responsible for the subject-matter, or by treating the orders as civil decrees for purposes of execution. The Tribunal further informed that, to secure compliance, it routinely directs Government Departments, Pollution Control Boards, municipalities and project proponents to submit periodic compliance reports within fixed timelines and constitutes joint committees comprising Central Pollution Control Boards (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), district administrations and subject experts to conduct site inspections and file factual and follow-up reports, although final decisions are taken by the Tribunal and not by the committees.

5.37 **The Committee expresses concern about the reliance of the Tribunal on outside agencies and civil decree procedure to get its orders implemented. The Committee is also constrained to note that the effectiveness of the Tribunal's work is heavily dependent on implementing authorities that enforce the orders of the Tribunal, thereby highlighting inherent weaknesses of the existing enforcement framework.**

5.38 **The Committee feels that compliance with the Tribunal's orders by the concerned authorities should be monitored more closely. It recommends stronger follow-up by the Tribunal and the Ministry through regular action-taken reports, effective use of joint Committees, clear fixing of responsibility, and better ways to ensure that NGT orders are implemented promptly.**

vi. Suo motu Jurisdiction and Public Expectations

5.39 The Committee emphasised the need for the Tribunal to use its suo motu powers more proactively in relation to critical environmental concerns such as severe air pollution in Delhi and the Indo-Gangetic plain; illegal sand mining on riverbanks; river pollution and "dead" rivers; highway tree felling and loss of indigenous roadside plantations; unregulated high-rise construction in metropolitan cities; pollution and ecological risks in North-Eastern States; and environmentally sensitive mining.

5.40 The Tribunal in its submission acknowledged that Delhi continues to face hazardous air quality due to multiple causes, and stated that NGT has on several occasions issued orders and judgments addressing this problem. It further pointed out that, in recent times, matters relating to air quality in Delhi are being taken up by the Supreme Court of India, and that once the apex court is seized of the issue, NGT does not exercise jurisdiction over the same subject-matter. The Tribunal also reiterated that, while it can pass directions within the scope of the Acts listed in Schedule I, it does not grant environmental clearances, permissions or no-objection certificates for industries, plants or construction activities and has a limited adjudicatory mandate confined to specified statutes. The Tribunal during the deliberations affirmed that the Tribunal has suo motu powers, recognised by the Supreme Court, and stated that it has in fact taken suo motu cognizance in various cases based on media reports and information placed before it, but that concrete factual material is often required to act effectively.

5.41 **The Committee notes the gap between public expectations and actual interventions of the Tribunal in some high-visibility environmental issues such as Delhi's recurring air-quality crisis, illegal mining and long-standing pollution hotspots. It considers that institutional responses in such matters need to be timely, visible and commensurate with their gravity, while respecting statutory limits and the primacy of the Supreme Court where it is seized of particular issues. In this relation, the Committee recommends that, NGT may adopt clearer internal practices to identify and prioritise matters for suo motu consideration, especially in relation to such repeated environmental issues.**

CHAPTER-VI
REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL (NCLT)

I. Introduction

6.1 The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was constituted under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and became operational with effect from 1 June, 2016. The Tribunal was established pursuant to the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee with the objective of creating a unified forum for adjudication of company law and insolvency matters. It consolidated the functions previously discharged by the Company Law Board (CLB), the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) and certain company law jurisdictions of the High Courts. The Tribunal plays a critical role in the economic framework of the country by facilitating resolution of stressed assets, revival of companies and protection of stakeholder interests. The NCLT is headed by a President and comprises Judicial and Technical Members. It functions through a Principal Bench at New Delhi and several Regional Benches across the country.

II. Jurisdiction and Functions of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

6.2 The Tribunal exercises jurisdiction over matters relating to oppression and mismanagement, mergers and amalgamations, class action suits, reduction of share capital, restoration of companies, winding up proceedings and other matters arising under the Companies Act, 2013.

6.3 The key functions of the Tribunal include the adjudication of company law disputes under the Companies Act, 2013; approval of mergers, amalgamations and restructuring schemes; acting as the Adjudicating Authority under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 for corporate insolvency resolution; admission and disposal of cases filed by financial creditors, operational creditors and corporate debtors; supervision and approval of resolution plans aimed at revival of stressed companies; ordering liquidation of companies where resolution is not feasible; and ensuring protection of interests of various stakeholders, including creditors, employees and investors.

6.4 The Tribunal is designed as a specialized body with a combination of judicial and technical expertise to deal with complex corporate and financial matters. NCLT is also the Adjudicating Authority under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 for Corporate Insolvency Resolution Processes (CIRP), liquidation proceedings and insolvency resolution of personal guarantors to corporate debtors. The Committee notes that timely disposal of such matters is critical for maintaining creditor confidence and promoting economic activity.

III. Challenges before the Tribunal: Observations and Recommendations:-

i. Members, Manpower and Institutional Capacity of the Tribunal

6.5 The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) functions through a Principal Bench at New Delhi and Benches located across the country. The sanctioned strength of the Tribunal comprises one President, thirty-one (31) Judicial Members and thirty-one (31) Technical Members. Initially, the Tribunal commenced functioning with a Principal Bench at New Delhi and ten other Benches at New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai with effect from 1 June 2016. Subsequently, additional Benches were established at Jaipur (2018), Cuttack (2018), Kochi (2018), Amaravati (2019) and Indore (2019) to improve access to justice and cater to the increasing workload.

6.6 The Tribunal informed the Committee that while the sanctioned strength of sixty-two (62) Members has remained unchanged since its inception, its jurisdiction has expanded substantially following the enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. According to the Tribunal, the existing judicial strength is no longer commensurate with the volume and complexity of matters being adjudicated and additional Benches and Members are required to effectively discharge its expanded mandate. The Tribunal has further informed that insolvency matters now constitute a substantial proportion of its caseload, placing considerable pressure on its judicial and administrative capacity.

6.7 During the course of examination, the Tribunal also informed the Committee that the existing Recruitment Rules, 2020 provide for filling a majority of posts through promotion or deputation, with only a limited number of entry-level posts earmarked for direct recruitment. According to the Tribunal, this has resulted in persistent vacancies across various cadres and increased reliance on contractual and outsourced personnel. The Tribunal further submitted that deputation posts often fail to attract an adequate number of eligible officers due to practical constraints, including absence of Government accommodation and medical facilities comparable to those available in other Central Government organizations. Moreover, the existing Recruitment Rules are not fully aligned with those of comparable Ministries and Departments, thereby creating difficulties in recruitment through the Staff Selection Commission.

6.8 The Tribunal also informed the Committee that the existing sanctioned strength of 320 posts is no longer commensurate with its expanded jurisdiction and increasing workload, and emphasized the need for creation of additional permanent posts to ensure efficient functioning of its Courts. The Tribunal further submitted that a proposal for creation of 729 additional permanent posts has already been submitted to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs considering the increased judicial and administrative workload.

6.9 **The Committee notes that more than 95 percent of the Tribunal's workforce is presently engaged on a contractual basis and frequent transfers of deputationists along with high attrition among contractual personnel adversely affects continuity in administration, resulting in loss of institutional memory and impeding the development of domain expertise. The Committee is of the considered view that the effectiveness of a specialized adjudicatory institution depends not only upon the availability of adequate Judicial and Technical Members but also upon a stable, experienced and professionally managed administrative workforce. The Committee, therefore, recommends that vacancies in the posts of Judicial and Technical Members may be filled expeditiously and that the requirement of additional Benches and Members be reviewed periodically in light of the growing caseload. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs undertake a comprehensive review of the National Company Law Tribunal Recruitment Rules, 2020 with a view to address bottlenecks in recruitment, facilitating greater avenues for direct recruitment and ensuring timely filling of vacancies across all cadres.**

6.10 **The Committee also recommends that the staffing requirements of the Tribunal be reassessed and adequate permanent posts be created to reduce dependence on contractual and deputation-based personnel. A stable and permanent workforce is essential for preserving institutional memory, strengthening domain expertise, ensuring**

continuity in administration and enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Tribunal.

ii. Pendency, Case Management and Timely Disposal

6.11 The Tribunal informed the Committee that during the financial year 2024-25, they achieved a disposal rate of 59.02 percent under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with 10,066 cases disposed of out of a total of 17,054 pending cases. Under the Companies Act, 2013, they achieved a disposal rate of 26.17 percent, with 2,441 cases disposed of out of a total of 9,326 pending cases during that period. The details of case disposal is given in table below:

Table 6.1

Details of Cases Filing, Disposal & Pendency for the FY 2024-2025								
S. No.	**Section**	**Opening Balance As on 01.04. 2024**	**Transfer from High Court**	**Freshly Filed and Numbered**	**Total**	**Disposal**	**Closing Balance as on 31.03.2025**	**Disposal Rate**
1	**M&A**	**1,034**	**0**	**1,697**	**2,731**	**1,643**	**1,088**	**60.16%**
2	**IBC**	**11,677**	**249**	**5,128**	**17,054**	**10,066**	**6,988**	**59.02%**
3	**Companies Act**	**7,082**	**4**	**2,240**	**9,326**	**2,441**	**6,885**	**26.17%**

(Source: NCLT)

Table 6.2

Companies Act	**Merger and Amalgamation**	**IBC**	**Total**
6,633	1,045	7,002	14,680

(Source: NCLT)

6.12 The Committee notes that as on 30th September, 2025, a total of 14,680 cases were pending before the Tribunal, comprising matters under the Companies Act, merger and amalgamation cases and insolvency proceedings.

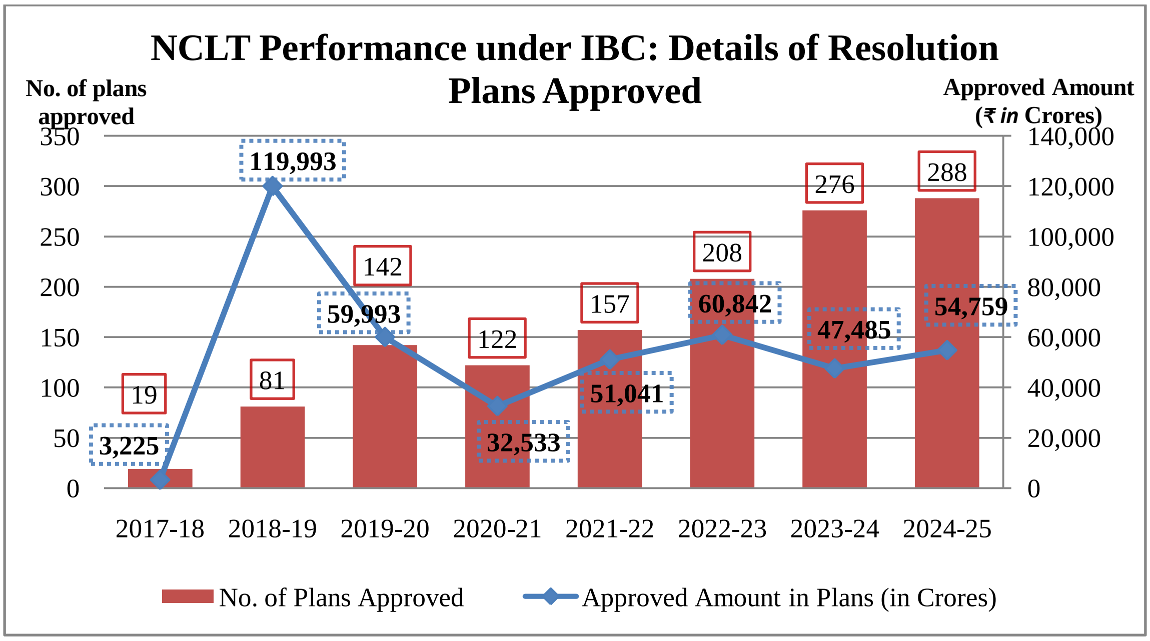
6.13 The details of resolution plans approved by NCLT are compiled in the table below:

Table 6.3

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL			
IBC Performance- Number of Resolutions Plans			
Sr. No	**Year**	**No. of Plans Approved in NCLT Benches**	**Approved Amount in Plans (in Crores)**
1	2017-18	19	₹ 3,225
2	2018-19	81	₹ 1,19,993
3	2019-20	142	₹ 59,993
4	2020-21	122	₹ 32,533
5	**2021-22**	**157**	**₹ 51,041**
6	**2022-23**	**208**	**₹ 60,842**
7	**2023-24**	**276**	**₹ 47,485**
8	**2024-25**	**288**	**₹ 54,759**
Total		**1,293**	**₹ 4,29,871**

(Source: NCLT)

Graph 6.1



6.14 The Committee appreciates that since inception, the Tribunal has approved 1,293 resolution plans under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) involving an aggregate amount of over ₹4.29 lakh crore. The Committee also notes that 288 resolution plans were approved during FY 2024-25, which is the highest annual number of approvals since the inception of the Tribunal. The Committee also takes notes of the fact that under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), NCLT has achieved substantial disposal rates under Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The Committee observes that following the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Dilip B. Jiwrajka vs. Union of India*, the Tribunal has witnessed a significant increase in insolvency proceedings relating to personal guarantors to corporate debtors.

6.15 The details regarding adherence to the timelines prescribed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) cases, are given in the table below:

Table 6.4

NCLT CASE STATUS REPORT (CSR) UPTO 30.06.2025		
National Company Law Tribunal – (All Benches Including Principal Bench)		
Timeline adherence under IBC u/s 7,9 & 10 (As on 30.06.2025)*		
S. No.	**Particulars**	**Upto June 2025**
1	**Total number of CIRP cases filed within 180 days** where Resolution Plan application filed by RP	24
2	**Total number of such CIRP cases Resolved within 330 days** which were filed by RP (filed by within 180 days)	6
3	**Total number of such CIRP case Resolved after 330 days**which were filed by RP (filed within 180 days)	1
4	**Total number of CIRP cases filed beyond 180 days** where Resolution Plan application filed by RP	378
5	**Total number of such cases Resolved within 330 days**which were filed by RP (filed beyond 180 days)	2
6	**Total number of such cases Resolved after 330 days** which were filed by RP (filed beyond 180 days)	43
7	**Number of Insolvency Cases Pending for** resolution as on 30.06.2025	350

***These Resolution Plan application include those pending for approval as on 31.03.2025, as well as new applications filed on or after 01.04.2025.**
Note:- Subject to further reconciliation.

(Source: NCLT)

6.16 The above data indicates that, as on 30th June, 2025, Resolution Plan applications were filed within the stipulated period of 180 days in only 24 cases, whereas in 378 cases the applications were filed beyond the prescribed period. Out of the cases where in applications were filed within 180 days, only six were resolved within the overall timeline of 330 days, while one case exceeded the statutory limit. Similarly, among the cases where applications were filed beyond 180 days, only two were resolved within 330 days, whereas 43 cases took longer than the prescribed timeline. The Committee further notes that 350 insolvency cases remained pending for resolution as on 30th June, 2025.

6.17 **The Committee observes that the data also reflects that the statutory timelines envisaged under the IBC are not being met in a substantial number of cases, particularly where delays occur in the filing of Resolution Plan applications. As a result, the pendency of insolvency cases continues to remain significant, highlighting the need for expeditious disposal of CIRP matters in order to achieve the objectives of the Code.**

6.18 **The Committee notes that non-adherence to the statutory timelines prescribed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in a significant number of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process cases. The Committee therefore feels that delays in resolution adversely affect creditor confidence, erode asset value and undermine the objective of a time-bound insolvency resolution framework. While noting the constraints highlighted by the NCLT, the Committee believes that timely resolution of insolvency proceedings requires coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), Resolution Professionals and the NCLT.**

6.19 The Tribunal has identified three principal external factors contributing to delays in the disposal of insolvency matters. According to the Tribunal, considerable time is consumed in the serving of notices, filing of replies and ensuring compliance with the principles of natural justice. The Tribunal has further stated that insolvency proceedings often involve voluminous records, multiple stakeholders and a large number of interlocutory applications, each requiring separate adjudication and thereby prolonging the resolution process.

6.20 **The Committee notes that shortages of courtrooms and staff, high attrition among contractual personnel, infrastructural constraints and delays in the upgradation of the e-Courts system have adversely affected the Tribunal's capacity to dispose of cases in a timely manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in consultation with the NCLT, IBBI and other stakeholders, take**

targeted measures to address the procedural and institutional bottlenecks identified by the Tribunal, including delays in serving of notices, filing of replies, disposal of interlocutory applications and strengthening of judicial, administrative and digital infrastructure. The Committee also recommends that the NCLT adopt robust case management practices to ensure greater adherence to the statutory timelines, prioritize the disposal of long-pending CIRP matters, and periodically review cases that have exceeded the prescribed timelines so as to identify the underlying causes of delay and take appropriate corrective measures.

iii. Need for a Separate IBC Vertical

6.21 The Committee notes the case status data furnished by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), as presented in the table below, relating to the cases received, disposed of and pending under various jurisdictions of the Tribunal up to 30th June, 2025.

Table 6.5

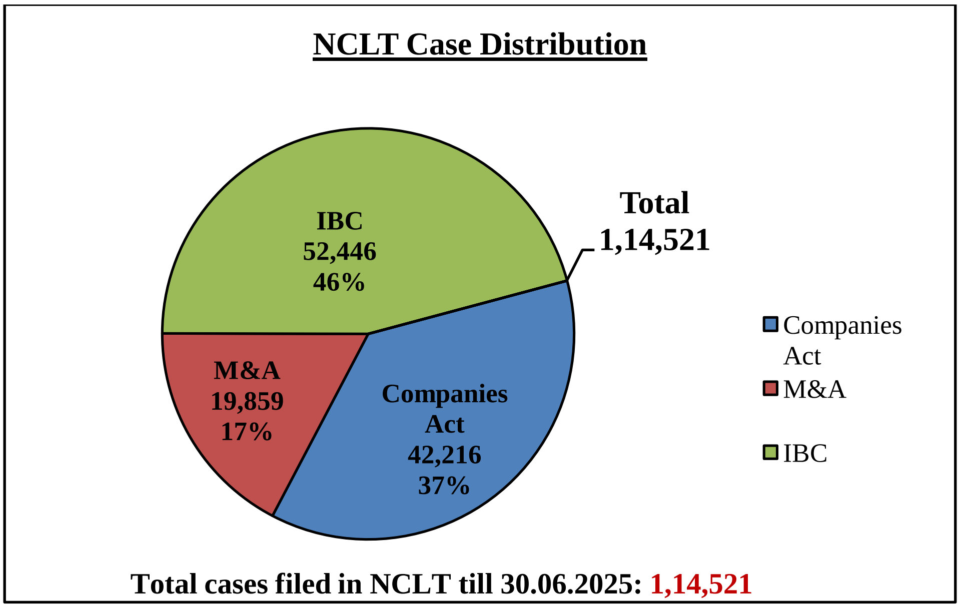
<table>
<tr><th colspan="6">NCLT CASE STATUS REPORT (CSR) UPTO 30.06.2025</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL (ALL BECHES INCLUDING PRINCIPAL BENCH)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">No. of Cases received from CLB , transferred from High Court and freshly filed cases.</td></tr>
<tr><td>S.No.</td><td>Category</td><td colspan="4">Details</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="12">1</td><td rowspan="12">No. Cases received from CLB, transferred from high court and freshly filed cases.</td><td colspan="4">No. of Case received from CLB:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Companies Act*</td><td>M&A</td><td>IBC</td><td>Total</td></tr>
<tr><td>5,345</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5,345</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Received By transfer from High Courts Upto 30.06.2025:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Companies Act*</td><td>M&A</td><td>IBC</td><td>Total</td></tr>
<tr><td>36</td><td>1,526</td><td>3,392</td><td>4,954</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Fresh Filed upto 30.06.2025:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Companies Act*</td><td>M&A</td><td>IBC</td><td>Total</td></tr>
<tr><td>36,835</td><td>18,333</td><td>49,054</td><td>1,04,222</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Total Cases Filed in NCLT upto 30.06.2025:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Companies Act*</td><td>M&A</td><td>IBC</td><td>Total</td></tr>
<tr><td>42,216</td><td>19,859</td><td>52,446</td><td>1,14,521</td></tr>
</table>

S.No.	Category	Details							
2	No. of cases disposed of by NCLT since (01.06.2016 – 30.06.2025)	Companies Act*		M&A		IBC***		Total	
		From April 2025 to June 2025	Upto 30.06.2025	From April 2025 to June 2025	Upto 30.06.2025	From April 2025 to June 2025	Upto 30.06.2025	From April 2025 to June 2025	Upto 30.06.2025
		475	35,345	483	18,584	1,150	45,636	2,108	99,565

* This means all Company Petitions other than Merger & Amalgamation Petitions
*** Disposal figures under IBC category includes admitted matters also.

(Source: NCLT)

Chart 6.1



6.22 The data reveals that the Tribunal has disposed of 99,565 cases out of a total of 1,14,521 cases since its inception. Around 6,810 insolvency cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) remain pending in the Tribunal as on 30.06.2025. The Committee's analysis of the data, depicted in Chart above, further indicates that IBC matters account for nearly 45.8 percent of the Tribunal's overall caseload. The Committee observes that insolvency proceedings have emerged as the Tribunal's single largest area of work and continue to place substantial demands on its judicial and administrative resources.

6.23 Despite insolvency matters now constituting the largest segment of its work in NCLT, no dedicated IBC vertical was created when the jurisdiction under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was entrusted to the Tribunal. According to the Tribunal, this has resulted in considerable pressure on the existing Benches, which continue to discharge both insolvency and company law functions simultaneously.

6.24 **The Committee is of the considered view that steadily expanding insolvency jurisdiction of the NCLT should not dilute its equally important responsibilities under the Companies Act, 2013, including matters relating to mergers and amalgamations, corporate governance, and protection of stakeholder interests. The Committee further notes that insolvency matters require specialized and time-bound adjudication and now account for more than half of the Tribunal's total caseload. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs examine the feasibility of establishing dedicated IBC Benches/verticals within the NCLT, with adequate judicial and technical members, registry support and infrastructure. Such a specialized mechanism would facilitate expeditious disposal of insolvency matters while ensuring that the Tribunal's company law jurisdiction receives equal attention.**

iv. Digital Transformation and E-Courts

6.25 As part of the Governments e-Courts initiative, the Tribunal has undertaken several technology-driven reforms to enhance the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of its adjudicatory processes. The Tribunal has submitted that it has implemented e-filing facilities for filing of cases and petitions through an online portal, virtual and hybrid hearings through video conferencing platforms, digital case management systems for real-time tracking and monitoring of cases, and digitization of court records for secure storage and management of case-related documents. The Tribunal has further informed that these measures have facilitated greater transparency by enabling easier access to case information and proceedings for stakeholders.

6.26 The Committee was apprised about the enhancements made to the e-Court ecosystem during 2024-25, including implementation of hybrid mode of hearing in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court; strengthening of the Document Management System by incorporating details of matters challenged before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT); and introduction of a Standard Operating Procedure in the e-filing module for scrutiny of applications under Rules 28 and 63 of the NCLT Rules, 2016.

The Tribunal informed that the upgraded system enables automatic generation of notices, electronic communication of notices and orders to litigants, improved document viewing facilities, and enhanced visibility of scrutiny-related documents.

6.27 The Tribunal, however, submitted that the existing e-Court platform has outlived its operational lifecycle and is no longer adequate to support the growing volume and complexity of cases. The NCLT submitted that implementation of the proposed NCLT 2.0 project, along with a robust disaster recovery mechanism and dedicated technical manpower, is essential for sustaining technology-driven adjudication.

6.28 **The Committee is pleased to note that NCLT has emerged as one of the leading tribunals in adopting digital processes and hybrid modes of hearing, thereby enhancing accessibility and efficiency in adjudication. While appreciating the progress achieved, the Committee notes the concerns expressed by the Tribunal regarding limitations of the existing IT infrastructure and the need for time-bound implementation of the proposed NCLT 2.0 project.**

6.29 **The Committee therefore, recommends that digital infrastructure of the Tribunal be strengthened on priority basis to enable expeditious implementation of the proposed NCLT 2.0 project. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs should ensure adequate and predictable budgetary support to the Tribunal for implementation of the digital initiatives envisaged under the project. The Committee further recommends that the rollout of NCLT 2.0 be accompanied by a robust disaster recovery mechanism to safeguard case records and system continuity, and adequate deployment of dedicated technical manpower to operate and maintain the upgraded platform.**

v. Infrastructure

6.30 The NCLT informed the Committee that the existing Benches of the Tribunal, including the Principal Bench, are housed in old Government buildings belonging to other Departments or in Corporate Bhawans. The Tribunal further stated that most of these buildings do not conform to the standards prescribed under the National Court Management System (NCMS) Baseline Reports on Court Development Planning System, 2016 and 2024. The Committee was also informed that there is an urgent need to upgrade all NCLT court premises in accordance with the prescribed parameters. The Tribunal also submitted that proposals for development of dedicated court complexes conforming to the National Court Management System (NCMS) standards have already been submitted to the concerned Ministry. However, these proposals are yet to be implemented.

6.31 **In this regard, the Committee is of the considered view that adequate and modern judicial infrastructure is essential for the efficient functioning of the Tribunal and for ensuring timely delivery of justice. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in consultation with the National Company Law Tribunal, undertake a comprehensive assessment of the infrastructure requirements of all NCLT Benches and take expeditious steps to provide dedicated court complexes and modern facilities in conformity with the standards prescribed under the National Court Management System. The Committee further recommends that infrastructure upgradation of existing Benches be accorded priority so as to enhance the efficiency, accessibility and overall functioning of the Tribunal.**

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RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS AT A GLANCE

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)

1. The Committee is of the view that the efficiency of a judicial institution depends not only on the availability of Members but also on the adequacy of registry, administrative and support staff. Vacancies at various levels adversely affect scheduling of hearings, preparation of records, court proceedings, administrative supervision and overall case disposal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all vacant posts of Members in the Tribunal be filled in a timely and continuous manner so that the institution is able to function at its optimum capacity. The Committee further recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs, in coordination with the Tribunal, SSC and other concerned agencies, accord top priority to fill vacancies in the Registry and supporting cadres, particularly in the posts of Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Senior Private Secretary and Private Secretary.

(Para 2.13)

2. The Committee also notes the recurring challenge faced by Government organizations in retaining candidates selected against Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts owing to the increasing trend of over-qualified candidates either not joining or leaving shortly after appointment. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Government should examine the feasibility of maintaining a reserve panel or waiting list of selected candidates, valid for a specified period, to facilitate expeditious filling of vacancies arising from non-joining or early attrition. Such a mechanism would help reduce delays in recruitment and ensure continuity in the functioning of the Tribunal.

(Para 2.14)

3. The Committee also recommends that periodic manpower assessments be undertaken to evaluate staffing requirements across judicial, registry and support cadres and that vacancies be filled proactively so that administrative constraints do not impede the efficient delivery of justice.

(Para 2.15)

4. While the Committee appreciates the Tribunal's sustained efforts in reducing pendency over the long term, the sharp increase in pending cases by 19,275 cases within a period of five months warrants closer examination. The Committee therefore desires that the issue of sharp increase in pendency reported during the current period, may be examined and recommends that the Tribunal undertake a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to this rise, including trends in newly instituted appeals.

(Para 2.20)

5. The Committee is of the view that regular monitoring of compliance with such timelines is essential to ensure consistency in adjudication and to prevent accumulation of fresh arrears. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Tribunal strengthen monitoring mechanisms for adherence to the prescribed performance benchmarks and timelines relating to disposal of appeals and pronouncement of orders. The Committee also recommends that special attention be given to disposal of long-pending and legacy cases, particularly those involving recurring issues of law, so as to promote certainty in tax administration and reduce avoidable litigation.

(Para 2.22)

6. While appreciating the substantial progress made by the Tribunal in digitizing its judicial and administrative processes, the Committee takes into account the concerns expressed by the Tribunal regarding ageing hardware, obsolescence of software systems and the increasing need for cyber-security safeguards. Given the sensitive nature of taxpayer information handled by the Tribunal, the Committee emphasizes that data security and digital resilience must remain a priority. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs provide adequate financial and technical support for periodic upgradation of hardware, software and video-conferencing infrastructure across all benches. The Committee further recommends that regular cyber-security audits, vulnerability assessments and data protection reviews be undertaken periodically to safeguard judicial records and taxpayer information.

(Para 2.27)

7. The Committee believes that adequate physical infrastructure is essential for the efficient functioning of a judicial institution. Modern courtrooms, record management facilities, office space, digital infrastructure and appropriate facilities for litigants and Members of the Bar contribute significantly to the quality and efficiency of adjudication. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs accord priority to strengthening the physical infrastructure of the Tribunal across the country. The Committee particularly emphasizes the need for expeditious action towards establishing a permanent and modern headquarters for the Tribunal at Mumbai and completing the ongoing infrastructure projects at Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Guwahati within the stipulated timelines. The Committee further recommends that efforts be intensified to reduce dependence on rented premises by securing suitable Government accommodation or land for benches currently functioning from private buildings.

(Para 2.31)

8. The Committee is therefore of the view that specialized tribunals derive their strength not merely from judicial experience but also from the availability of subject-matter expertise. In this context, continuous professional development assumes significance for Members drawn from diverse professional backgrounds. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Tribunal, in coordination with the Department of Legal Affairs and other relevant institutions, strengthen capacity-building initiatives for Members and Registry officials through regular training programmes, workshops and knowledge-sharing exercises. The Committee further recommends that special emphasis be placed on emerging areas of tax jurisprudence, including international taxation, transfer pricing, anti-avoidance measures and the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025.

(Para 2.34)

9. The Committee also recommends that appropriate mechanisms be developed for continuous professional education and specialized orientation programmes for newly appointed Members so as to equip them with the requisite domain expertise in tax law and practice. Further, while making appointments to senior positions within the Tribunal, due consideration may be given to the importance of specialized knowledge and experience in taxation and related fields, consistent with the applicable statutory

framework. Such measures would help ensure that the Tribunal remains equipped to effectively adjudicate increasingly complex tax disputes and maintain its longstanding reputation as a premier specialized adjudicatory institution.

(Para 2.35)

<u>Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT)</u>

10. The Committee is of the considered view that adequate judicial and administrative manpower is indispensable for ensuring timely disposal of claims and efficient functioning of the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that vacancies in the posts of Members and supporting staff be filled in a time-bound manner. The Committee also recommends that the process for selection and appointment of Members be initiated well in advance of the anticipated occurrence of vacancies so that appointments are completed before the outgoing Members demit office, thereby ensuring continuity in the functioning of the Tribunal.

(Para 3.8)

11. The Committee notes that while all major Benches have recorded a decline in pendency, a substantial proportion of pending cases continues to be concentrated in certain regions. The Committee is of the view that such concentration warrants a closer examination of the underlying causes, including adequacy of infrastructure, manpower availability, workload distribution and other region-specific factors.

(Para 3.12)

12. The Committee, however, is of the considered view that sustained and targeted interventions are required in regions accounting for a disproportionately high share of pending cases. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways should undertake a comprehensive Region-wise and Bench-wise analysis of pendency trends, identify the factors responsible for concentration of cases in particular regions and formulate a time-bound strategy to address the structural bottlenecks so identified. For this, it should, if need be, establish additional benches in those regions where high case volume, persist.

(Para 3.14)

13. The Committee further recommends that the performance of various Benches be periodically reviewed and appropriate measures be taken to sustain the momentum achieved in reduction of arrears and improve the overall efficiency of the adjudicatory process.

(Para 3.15)

14. In view of continuing pendency at WS stage, the Committee recommends that these indicative timelines be further reduced, with WS ordinarily filed within 45 days and DRM reports completed within 60 days, and that compliance be monitored Bench-wise through monthly reviews at Zonal and Railway Board levels.

(Para 3.18)

15. The Committee was informed that high pendency in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Mumbai is linked to dense railway networks, high train frequency, large populations and behavioural factors such as foot-board travel, boarding/de-boarding moving trains and trespassing on tracks. While acknowledging the above factors, the Committee recommends that Ministry of Railways, in coordination with RCT, design targeted safety and awareness campaigns in these regions, and periodically review their impact on incidence of accident and claim filing.

(Para 3.19)

16. The hybrid and virtual hearing systems have facilitated greater accessibility and enabled advocates and litigants to participate in the proceedings remotely. However, the Committee observes that infrastructural deficiencies and shortage of manpower continue to impede optimum utilization of technology and the full realization of the benefits envisaged under the e-RCT Project. The Committee, therefore, recommends full implementation of hybrid and virtual court systems and strengthening of digital infrastructure across all Benches so as to improve accessibility and reduce inconvenience and logistical burden on litigants, particularly those residing in remote areas.

(Para 3.21)

17. The Committee further recommends that RCT should introduce a fully digital filing system (e-filing) for claim petitions, provide real time case status tracking through

a dedicated portal and mobile application and facilitate virtual hearing for parties residing far from Tribunal Benches. To this end, adequate technical and administrative manpower should be provided and necessary infrastructure be created, so as to facilitate effective implementation of the e-RCT Project and ensure optimum utilization of technology in the functioning of the Tribunal.

(Para 3.22)

18. The Committee is of the considered view that financial autonomy constitutes an important prerequisite for strengthening institutional independence and efficient functioning of the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways examine the feasibility of providing a separate capital budget for the Railway Claims Tribunal so as to ensure timely availability of funds for infrastructure development, procurement of equipment and maintenance of office premises and to reinforce the institutional credibility and independence of the Tribunal as a quasi-judicial body.

(Para 3.25)

19. The Committee appreciates the initiatives undertaken by the Tribunal to enhance access to justice and improve the efficiency of its functioning. The organization of Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes and the implementation of a Legal Aid Scheme are commendable measures to ensure that litigants belonging to economically weaker sections are not denied access to justice on account of financial constraints. The ongoing e-RCT Project, envisaging the transition of the Tribunal to a paperless environment through the introduction of e-filing, online case information systems and digital payment gateways, is also a welcome initiative aimed at expediting the disposal of cases and reducing the time taken for adjudication.

(Para 3.28)

20. The Committee is of the considered view that such initiatives have significantly contributed towards expeditious disposal of cases and timely grant of relief to victims and their families. The Committee believes that these practices may serve as useful models for improving efficiency and effective utilization of resources.

(Para 3.29)

21. The Committee is of the opinion that such an imbalance in bargaining power, coupled with the reluctance of railway officials to settle genuine claims, may adversely affect access to justice and impede timely resolution of deserving cases. The Committee, therefore, recommends that appropriate safeguards be introduced to ensure fairness, transparency and voluntariness in settlement proceedings, so as to encourage timely resolution of disputes in deserving cases. The Committee also emphasizes the need for strict adherence to the prescribed limit on adjournments and recommends that avoidable adjournments be firmly discouraged in order to prevent delays and ensure expeditious disposal of cases.

(Para 3.31)

22. The Committee is of the considered view that a structured and standardized compensation framework would facilitate expeditious disbursement of compensation, ensure equitable treatment of victims, and reduce avoidable litigation arising from disputed or ad hoc settlements. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways examine the feasibility of introducing such a framework, particularly in fatal accident cases, on the lines of the civil aviation sector, so as to ensure timely relief to victims. The Committee further recommends that the claim procedure be simplified through the adoption of a standardized claim form, minimization of documentation where records are already available with the Railways, and provision of assistance desks to support claimant families at the time of filing.

(Para 3.33)

23. The Committee is of the considered view that access to RCT depends significantly on public awareness of its role and procedures, and that the absence of a dedicated outreach mechanism, limited language accessibility, and uneven availability of legal aid facilitation may make it difficult for claimants, especially those without legal support, to approach the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that concerted efforts be made to enhance public awareness regarding the functioning of the Tribunal through multilingual dissemination of information and establishment of facilitation mechanisms at all Tribunal Benches. Such steps would improve accessibility and enable individuals to seek timely and effective redressal.

(Para 3.35)

24. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Railways examine the feasibility of introducing a structured pre-litigation mechanism with a view to facilitate early resolution of disputes and reduce avoidable litigation. The Committee further recommends formulation of a comprehensive litigation policy to guide decision-making in respect of settlement of claims and minimize unnecessary litigation.

(Para 3.37)

25. In this regard, the Committee recommends that a universal filing system on the lines of a "Zero FIR" model may be adopted to improve accessibility and facilitate filing of claims by litigants. Such a mechanism has the potential to enhance access to justice and reduce inconvenience to litigants. It would enable claimants to institute proceedings at any location without being constrained by territorial jurisdiction and would ensure seamless transfer of cases to the appropriate Bench having jurisdiction.

(Para 3.39)

26. **The Committee also recommends that RCT should create a digital interface between the Railway Claim Tribunal and Indian Railways for quick verification of passenger records and accident reports. For speedy disposal of cases, the RCT should utilise the technology and AI for scheduling and cause list preparation, as well as automated notifications through SMS and email regarding hearings. Orders may also be generated with the assistance of AI.**

(Para 3.40)

<u>Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)</u>

27. The Committee notes that the sanctioned strength of TDSAT has remained at 52 posts since its establishment, even when the disputes involve highly specialized technical issues requiring domain-specific expertise. The Committee therefore, feels that there is an urgent need to strengthen the Tribunal’s human resources and technical capabilities. The Committee is of the view that the existing strength of Members and supporting staff may not be adequate to effectively address the expanded jurisdiction and growing caseload of the Tribunal. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should undertake a review of the Tribunal's sanctioned strength vis-à-vis its expanded mandate and enhance the sanctioned strength through the appointment of

additional Members, Officers and technical experts, as required. The Department should also implement regular capacity-building and training programmes commensurate with the Tribunal's expanded mandate to ensure efficient and timely adjudication of disputes across its diverse areas of jurisdiction.

(Para 4.7)

28. The Committee is of the considered view that timely adjudication of disputes is essential for ensuring regulatory certainty, promoting investor confidence and safeguarding the interests of stakeholders in the sectors under the jurisdiction of TDSAT. The Committee, therefore, recommends that TDSAT should formulate and implement a comprehensive, time-bound action plan for reducing the pendency of cases, with special emphasis on long-pending matters, by prioritizing their disposal, prescribing realistic timelines, and undertaking periodic monitoring and review of pendency.

(Para 4.9)

29. The committee is of the view that absence of a permanent office complex affects administrative efficiency, limits opportunities for future expansion and results in recurring expenditure on rented accommodation. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should provide adequate budgetary support for establishment of a permanent office complex equipped with modern courtrooms, digital infrastructure and other support facilities necessary for efficient discharge of the Tribunal's functions.

(Para 4.11)

30. The Committee is of the view that consumer courts often lack sector-specific technical expertise and are burdened with substantial pendency, which may affect timely and effective resolution of telecom-related grievances. The Committee, therefore, recommends establishment of an independent Telecom Ombudsman and creation of a robust multi-tier grievance redressal framework within the telecom sector. The Committee further recommends that the Government examine the feasibility of extending TDSAT's jurisdiction to certain categories of specialized consumer disputes.

(Para 4.14)

31. The Committee notes that technological advancements and digital transformation have significantly altered the nature of disputes coming before the Tribunal. The Committee appreciates that TDSAT has adopted virtual and hybrid hearing mechanisms, its ongoing efforts to operationalize an e-filing system, and the establishment of a Mediation Centre to facilitate amicable resolution of disputes. The Committee believes that effective utilization of digital technologies is essential for improving accessibility, transparency and efficiency in adjudicatory processes.

(Para 4.15)

32. The Committee feels that increasing caseloads and the expanding geographical footprint of stakeholders requires greater reliance on technology-enabled dispute resolution mechanisms. The Committee therefore, is of the view that robust digital infrastructure would not only improve case management and procedural efficiency but also enable stakeholders across the country, particularly those located outside major urban centres, to access the Tribunal's services more conveniently and effectively.

(Para 4.16)

33. The Committee, therefore, recommends strengthening digital adjudication systems through expansion of e-filing facilities, virtual hearings, digital record management and integrated case-management systems. The Committee further recommends development of user-friendly digital platforms for filing, monitoring and tracking complaints and disputes to enhance accessibility, transparency and timely disposal of cases.

(Para 4.17)

34. The Committee strongly feels that strengthening public awareness and accessibility is essential for ensuring an effective Aadhaar grievance redressal framework. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government, in coordination with the UIDAI and TDSAT, undertake sustained awareness and outreach initiatives through digital platforms, mass media campaigns, Common Service Centres (CSCs), and other appropriate channels to educate citizens regarding Aadhaar grievance redressal mechanisms, available appellate remedies and procedures for approaching the competent authorities. The Committee further recommends that user-friendly guidance materials and online resources be made readily accessible to enable

citizens to effectively avail themselves of the grievance redressal framework, particularly in rural and remote areas where awareness of appellate remedies may be limited.

(Para 4.21)

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

35. The Committee emphasizes that expeditious filling of vacancies of Judicial Members and Expert Members is of critical importance. The Committee while noting that the Tribunal is functioning below the minimum statutory member strength recommends that Government accord the highest priority to complete the ongoing appointment process, so as to enable the Tribunal to function in conformity with the legislative framework of the NGT Act, 2010.

(Para 5.11)

36. The Committee notes that NGT is substantially dependent on contractual manpower for its day-to-day functioning which leads to slow disposal of cases thereby increasing pendency. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the staffing structure of the Tribunal be reviewed comprehensively expeditiously to reduce excessive dependence on contractual manpower for ensuring stable Bench-wise availability of regular administrative, judicial, registry and technical support personnel.

(Para 5.14)

37. The Committee also notes that although 166 staff posts are sanctioned across NGT, only 142 are presently in position, with gaps at several levels and uneven Bench-wise distribution, including zero in-position Registrar posts at Chennai bench and shortfall in key posts such as Section Officers, Private Secretaries and Assistant (Judicial) staff (Annexure-I). The Committee is of the view that this persistent under-staffing, coupled with an over-reliance on multi-tasking and ad hoc arrangements, undermines efficient case management, registry functioning and compliance monitoring, and exacerbates delays and pendency across benches. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the administrative Ministry, in consultation with the Tribunal, undertake a time-bound Bench-wise staffing audit and fill all sanctioned posts in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' cadres, prioritizing critical court-management and registry positions at zonal benches where vacancies are most acute.

(Para 5.15)

38. The Committee believes that the prolonged pendency in such matters may weaken deterrence, reduce the practical impact of remedial directions, and permit environmental harm to continue or worsen over time, particularly where interim arrangements and partial compliance are allowed to persist without time-bound final resolution. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a separate mechanism be evolved for identification and tracking of cases pending for more than three years, including a categorization of such matters based on the stage of adjudication in order to help distinguish unavoidable delay from remediable delay and permit more focused intervention.

(Para 5.24)

39. The Committee observed that despite digital systems, many litigants still face delays and difficulty in getting timely relief in various cases. At the same time, it recognizes that the Tribunal has made real progress in online filing, virtual hearings and wider access for citizens and stakeholders, and considers that such facilities can help in faster disposal of cases and better monitoring of compliance with NGT orders.

(Para 5.27)

40. The Tribunal has informed that one of the key challenges it is facing is the lack of dedicated computer section and related technical posts. The Committee finds it unusual that, at a time when the Government is vigorously promoting the digitalization, an institution as important as the National Green Tribunal continues to function without a dedicated Computer/IT Section and the required technical posts. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a dedicated Computer/IT Section, with appropriate technical posts and supporting staff, be established and operationalized at all the Benches of the Tribunal to ensure reliable digital infrastructure and effective use of technology in its functioning.

(Para 5.28)

41. While appreciating the steps already taken on e-filing, hybrid hearings and case information systems, the Committee recommends that digital tools be further used to improve listing, case tracking, transparency and access for litigants from remote and environmentally vulnerable areas, so that the benefits such as quicker listing, fewer adjournments and better monitoring are fully realized in practice.

(Para 5.29)

42. The Committee further recommends that official website of the Tribunal should incorporate a dashboard displaying Bench-wise status of disposal of cases as well as other relevant figures for the Tribunal as a whole so that the public and policymakers can easily assess the efficiency and performance of the NGT and each of its benches.

(Para 5.30)

43. The Committee welcomed these efforts of the Tribunal. However, it emphasizes that such programmes must translate into more effective enforcement and timely remedial action on the ground. Particular importance may be accorded to issues pertaining to areas such as air pollution, illegal mining, river pollution, invasive species and urban ecological imbalance.

(Para 5.33)

44. The Committee is of the view that awareness-building and capacity development undertaken by the Tribunal are valuable. However, adjudicatory processes, follow-up mechanisms and enforcement needs to be strengthened, so that the expectations generated by these initiatives are matched by visible improvements in environmental outcomes.

(Para 5.34)

45. The Committee recommends that NGT, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and State authorities, should organize structured and sustained awareness programmes to educate the public about its mandate and functioning, particularly with regard to the types of environmental matters within its jurisdiction and the procedures for seeking redressal.

(Para 5.35)

46. The Committee expresses concern about the reliance of the Tribunal on outside agencies and civil decree procedure to get its orders implemented. The Committee is also constrained to note that the effectiveness of the Tribunal's work is heavily dependent on implementing authorities that enforce the orders of the Tribunal, thereby highlighting inherent weaknesses of the existing enforcement framework.

(Para 5.37)

47. **The Committee feels that compliance with the Tribunal's orders by the concerned authorities should be monitored more closely. It recommends stronger follow-up by the Tribunal and the Ministry through regular action-taken reports, effective use of joint Committees, clear fixing of responsibility, and better ways to ensure that NGT orders are implemented promptly.**

(Para 5.38)

48. **The Committee notes the gap between public expectations and actual interventions of the Tribunal in some high-visibility environmental issues such as Delhi's recurring air-quality crisis, illegal mining and long-standing pollution hotspots. It considers that institutional responses in such matters need to be timely, visible and commensurate with their gravity, while respecting statutory limits and the primacy of the Supreme Court where it is seized of particular issues. In this relation, the Committee recommends that, NGT may adopt clearer internal practices to identify and prioritise matters for suo motu consideration, especially in relation to such repeated environmental issues.**

(Para 5.41)

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

49. **The Committee notes that more than 95 percent of the Tribunal's workforce is presently engaged on a contractual basis and frequent transfers of deputationists along with high attrition among contractual personnel adversely affects continuity in administration, resulting in loss of institutional memory and impeding the development of domain expertise. The Committee is of the considered view that the effectiveness of a specialized adjudicatory institution depends not only upon the availability of adequate Judicial and Technical Members but also upon a stable, experienced and professionally managed administrative workforce. The Committee, therefore, recommends that vacancies in the posts of Judicial and Technical Members may be filled expeditiously and that the requirement of additional Benches and Members be reviewed periodically in light of the growing caseload. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs undertake a comprehensive review of the National Company Law Tribunal Recruitment Rules, 2020 with a view to address bottlenecks in recruitment,**

facilitating greater avenues for direct recruitment and ensuring timely filling of vacancies across all cadres.

(Para 6.9)

50. The Committee also recommends that the staffing requirements of the Tribunal be reassessed and adequate permanent posts be created to reduce dependence on contractual and deputation-based personnel. A stable and permanent workforce is essential for preserving institutional memory, strengthening domain expertise, ensuring continuity in administration and enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Tribunal.

(Para 6.10)

51. The Committee observes that the data also reflects that the statutory timelines envisaged under the IBC are not being met in a substantial number of cases, particularly where delays occur in the filing of Resolution Plan applications. As a result, the pendency of insolvency cases continues to remain significant, highlighting the need for expeditious disposal of CIRP matters in order to achieve the objectives of the Code.

(Para 6.17)

52. The Committee notes that non-adherence to the statutory timelines prescribed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in a significant number of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process cases. The Committee therefore feels that delays in resolution adversely affect creditor confidence, erode asset value and undermine the objective of a time-bound insolvency resolution framework. While noting the constraints highlighted by the NCLT, the Committee believes that timely resolution of insolvency proceedings requires coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), Resolution Professionals and the NCLT.

(Para 6.18)

53. The Committee notes that shortages of courtrooms and staff, high attrition among contractual personnel, infrastructural constraints and delays in the upgradation of the e-Courts system have adversely affected the Tribunal's capacity to dispose of cases in a timely manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of

Corporate Affairs, in consultation with the NCLT, IBBI and other stakeholders, take targeted measures to address the procedural and institutional bottlenecks identified by the Tribunal, including delays in serving of notices, filing of replies, disposal of interlocutory applications and strengthening of judicial, administrative and digital infrastructure. The Committee also recommends that the NCLT adopt robust case management practices to ensure greater adherence to the statutory timelines, prioritize the disposal of long-pending CIRP matters, and periodically review cases that have exceeded the prescribed timelines so as to identify the underlying causes of delay and take appropriate corrective measures.

(Para 6.20)

54. The Committee is of the considered view that steadily expanding insolvency jurisdiction of the NCLT should not dilute its equally important responsibilities under the Companies Act, 2013, including matters relating to mergers and amalgamations, corporate governance, and protection of stakeholder interests. The Committee further notes that insolvency matters require specialized and time-bound adjudication and now account for more than half of the Tribunal's total caseload. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs examine the feasibility of establishing dedicated IBC Benches/verticals within the NCLT, with adequate judicial and technical members, registry support and infrastructure. Such a specialized mechanism would facilitate expeditious disposal of insolvency matters while ensuring that the Tribunal's company law jurisdiction receives equal attention.

(Para 6.24)

55. The Committee is pleased to note that NCLT has emerged as one of the leading tribunals in adopting digital processes and hybrid modes of hearing, thereby enhancing accessibility and efficiency in adjudication. While appreciating the progress achieved, the Committee notes the concerns expressed by the Tribunal regarding limitations of the existing IT infrastructure and the need for time-bound implementation of the proposed NCLT 2.0 project.

(Para 6.28)

56. The Committee therefore, recommends that digital infrastructure of the Tribunal be strengthened on priority basis to enable expeditious implementation of the proposed NCLT 2.0 project. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs should ensure adequate

and predictable budgetary support to the Tribunal for implementation of the digital initiatives envisaged under the project. The Committee further recommends that the rollout of NCLT 2.0 be accompanied by a robust disaster recovery mechanism to safeguard case records and system continuity, and adequate deployment of dedicated technical manpower to operate and maintain the upgraded platform.

(Para 6.29)

57. In this regard, the Committee is of the considered view that adequate and modern judicial infrastructure is essential for the efficient functioning of the Tribunal and for ensuring timely delivery of justice. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in consultation with the National Company Law Tribunal, undertake a comprehensive assessment of the infrastructure requirements of all NCLT Benches and take expeditious steps to provide dedicated court complexes and modern facilities in conformity with the standards prescribed under the National Court Management System. The Committee further recommends that infrastructure upgradation of existing Benches be accorded priority so as to enhance the efficiency, accessibility and overall functioning of the Tribunal.

(Para 6.31)

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MINUTES

DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

VIII

EIGHTH MEETING

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice met at 11:00 A.M. on 11th June, 2025, in Committee Room-4, Block-A, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi – 110001. Following Members were present:-

i. Shri Brij Lal — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

ii. Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam
iii. Shri Vivek K. Tankha
iv. Shri Sana Sathish Babu

LOK SABHA

v. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
vi. Shri Gaddigoudar Parvatagouda Chandanagouda
vii. Shri P.P. Chaudhary
viii. Shri Varun Chaudhry
ix. Shri Saleng A. Sangma
x. Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao
xi. Shrimati Manju Sharma
xii. Shri M. Mallesh Babu
xiii. Shri Arup Chakraborty
xiv. Shri Lalji Verma
xv. Shri Pushpendra Saroj

SECRETARIAT

i. Shri P. Narayanan, Joint Secretary
ii. Smt. Indira Chaturvedi Vaidya, Director
iii. Shri Kuldeep Kumar Vats, Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members to the Committee meeting. Thereafter, the Chairman informed the Committee about the agenda for the meeting which was to hear the Registrar, Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) and the Additional Member (Commercial), Railway Board, on the functioning of the Railway Claims Tribunal in connection with the subject "Review of Functioning of the Tribunal System in the Country." He further mentioned about the issues plaguing tribunals like heavy backlog of cases, lack of infrastructure, inadequate number of Presiding Officers and frequent appeals to High Courts/Supreme Court.

3. On arrival of the Additional Member (Commercial), Railway Board, and Registrar, Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) and other senior officers to this meeting of the Committee, the Chairman welcomed them and asked them to give a brief on various key issues pertaining to the working of RCT with recent updates.

4. In her presentation, the Registrar started with a brief overview of the purpose behind the establishment of the Railway Claims Tribunal wherein she mentioned that the RCT was established under RCT Act, 1987 for determining claims against railway administration for loss, damage, or non-delivery of animals or goods entrusted to be carried by Railways. Thereafter, she briefed the Committee about the territorial jurisdiction of RCT wherein she informed that the RCT had 23 Benches at 21 locations. After that, she mentioned about the organizational structure of the RCT, Salient Features of RCT Act, 1987, Pendency Status of the cases (as of 30th April 2025), recent initiatives taken by the RCT for reducing pendency and the challenges being faced by RCT.

5. On conclusion of the presentation, Members raised some queries. Some common queries were as follows:

(i) reasons for high pendency in UP, Bihar, Mumbai;
(ii) Disposal Rates of the Cases;
(iii) reasons for excessive adjournments despite 3-adjournment rule.;
(iv) legal aid desks, fast-track provisions for serious injury/fatality cases, and staff training; and
(v) favoritism in prioritizing cases.

6. Further, Members suggested some reforms regarding the functioning of the Railway Claims Tribunal like standardization of compensation (e.g., like aviation sector) to reduce 80% of cases, provision of better Video Conferencing systems to reduce travelling of litigants, amendment in the RCT Act to allow local railway authorities to settle prima facie cases without filing, provision of pre-litigation mediation to reduce cases.

7. Thereafter, the Committee discussed its future programme wherein it was mentioned that the Study Visit scheduled to Srinagar and Jammu earlier from 10th to 13th May, 2025 was postponed and it was decided to undertake a study visit to Jammu and Kashmir again from 28th June to 01st July, 2025 to have an on the spot assessment of the Judicial Infrastructure at Srinagar. The Committee would also interact with Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Jammu on the subject 'Effective Redressal of Grievances by Strengthening the Public Grievances Redressal System'. It authorized the Chairman to seek the permission of Hon'ble Chairman for the proposed study visit.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 12.24 PM. A verbatim record of the meeting was kept.

NEW DELHI	**INDIRA CHATURVEDI VAIDYA**
11th June, 2025	**DIRECTOR**

To

The Chairman and Members of the
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Personnel,
Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

II

SECOND MEETING

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice met at 11:00 A.M. on 10th November, 2025 in Committee Room 3, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi – 110001. The following Members were present:-

1. Shri Brij Lal - *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Vivek K. Tankha
3. Shri N.R. Elango

LOK SABHA

4. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
5. Shri Mahendra Singh Solanky
6. Shri Varun Chaudhry
7. Shri Saleng A Sangma
8. Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao
9. Smt. Manju Sharma
10. Shri Radhakrishna
11. Shri Lalji Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Narayanan, Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Indira Chaturvedi Vaidya, Director
3. Shri Kuldip Singh, Deputy Secretary
4. Ms. Purva Khanna, Under Secretary

WITNESSES

Representatives of Department of Legal Affairs

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Arora, Joint Secretary
2. Shri Niranjan Nayak, Under Secretary

Representatives of National Green Tribunal

1. Ms. S. Vineeta, Registrar General
2. Shri. Arvind Kumar, Deputy Registrar
3. Ms. Fatima Ali, Asstt. Registrar

Representatives of National Companies Law Tribunal

1. Shri Utkarsh Yadav, Registrar

At the outset, Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting of the Committee and informed them about the agenda of the meeting which was to hear the views of Registrar General, National Green Tribunal (NGT); and, Registrar, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on the subject "Review of Functioning of the Tribunal System in the Country." Thereafter, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Department of Legal Affairs, (Ministry of Law and Justice); NGT; NCLT; and their colleagues to the meeting and invited their view on the subject including performance, pendency, infrastructure, manpower and institutional challenges affecting both the Tribunals.

2. The representatives of National Green Tribunal (NGT) made a Power Point Presentation wherein they outlined the evolution of environmental jurisprudence in India beginning from the Stockholm Conference of 1972 to the Rio Summit of 1992 and the Paris Agreement of 2015, which collectively shaped the need for a specialized environmental adjudicatory body. They explained the statutory basis of the NGT, its mandate, composition, and the network of Benches operating across the country to address various kinds of environmental disputes. The Committee was briefed on NGT's functioning, including e-filing system, hybrid hearings, urgent matter procedures, its power to take *suo motu* cognizance, and status of cases dealt by the Tribunal. The NGT also highlighted key institutional challenges, including shortage of Members and staff, and the need for upgraded digital infrastructure and case-management systems.

3. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) also presented an overview of its institutional framework, outlining its establishment under the Companies Act, 2013 and its pivotal adjudicatory role under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. The Tribunal informed the Committee about its organisational structure, comprising the President along with Judicial and Technical Members, and its network of Benches across the country, including the Principal Bench located in New Delhi. The NCLT highlighted its significant contribution to corporate governance and insolvency resolution through a

steady disposal of cases. The Committee was apprised of NCLT's digital initiatives like e-filing, virtual courtrooms, and hybrid hearings, persistent constraints such as acute staff shortages, delays arising from multiple interlocutory applications, and infrastructural and space related deficiencies. The absence of a permanent administrative cadre and reliance on contractual personnel were also noted as structural concerns. The NCLT further underscored the need for pay parity among Members and the urgent transition to an upgraded e-Court 2.0 ecosystem to streamline processes and reduce pendency.

4. During the meeting, Members expressed a wide range of concerns related to both environmental governance and the functioning of tribunal systems. Several Members highlighted the grave issue of worsening air pollution in Delhi, drawing attention to dust emissions from construction, vehicular pollution, and the inadequate enforcement of pollution-control measures. Concerns were also raised regarding the spread of invasive species, such as, water hyacinth, Tilapia and Thai Mangur, and their adverse impact on local ecosystems. Members flagged instances of illegal constructions in forest and non-forest areas and stressed the need for stronger monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Reference was made to delays in the disposal of certain high-impact environmental matters, including an NGT stay order that had halted a major highway project for an extended period, allegedly contributing to public inconvenience and even accidents. Members urged the Tribunal to adopt a more proactive approach, particularly through *suo motu* interventions, and called for intensified awareness and outreach efforts at the grassroots level.

5. In relation to the functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Members expressed concern over prolonged pendency, repeated interlocutory applications , shortages of Members and support staff, infrastructure gaps across Benches, inadequate courtroom space, limited working hours, and insufficient IT facilities. Members raised need for greater uniformity and efficiency in insolvency processes under the IBC and sought clarity on staffing, disposal timelines, and digital case-management systems. Budgetary constraints and reliance on contractual personnel and lack of institutional memory were highlighted as additional impediments. Across both institutions, Members reiterated the need for timely appointments, improved coordination with State agencies, and comprehensive written submissions to facilitate the Committee's examination. Members also highlighted the need for greater transparency and accountability in monitoring compliance with NGT directives and NCLT-mandated resolution processes, urging both institutions to adopt robust mechanisms for effective implementation of their orders.

6. The Chairman thanked the officials for their presentation and responses during the interaction and directed the witnesses to furnish comprehensive written replies to all pending queries raised by Members during the meeting within seven days.

7. A verbatim record of the meeting was kept.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 P.M.

INDIRA CHATURVEDI VAIDYA
DIRECTOR

New Delhi
10th November 2025

To

The Chairman and Members of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

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DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

III

THIRD MEETING

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice met at 11:00 A.M. on 20th November, 2025 in Committee Room 3, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi – 110001. The following Members of the Committee were present:-

1. Shri Brij Lal — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray
3. Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam
4. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla

LOK SABHA

5. Shri Gaddigoudar Parvatagouda Chandangouda
6. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
7. Shri Varun Chaudhry
8. Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao
9. Smt. Manju Sharma
10. Shri Dineshbhai Makwana
11. Shri Pushpendra Saroj

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Narayanan, Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Indira Chaturvedi Vaidya, Director
3. Shri Kuldip Singh, Deputy Secretary
4. Ms. Purva Khanna, Under Secretary

WITNESSES

Department of Legal Affairs

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Arora, Joint Secretary

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

1. Shri Sanjeev Pandey, Director
2. Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, Deputy Registrar

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting of the committee and informed them about agenda of the meeting which was to deliberate on the subject "Review of functioning of Tribunal System in the Country" with the officials of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). Thereafter, the Chairman welcomed Shri Sanjeev Pandey, Director, TDSAT, and representatives of the Department of Legal Affairs on their arrival to the meeting and invited their views on the issues pertaining to pendency of cases, staff shortages, delayed recruitment, infrastructural limitations, etc. with regard to the Tribunal.

2. The Director, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) demonstrated a Power Point Presentation highlighting evolution and mandate of the Tribunal. He informed that the Tribunal was established in May 2000, later on expanded from telecom disputes to include broadcasting and cable services (2004), cyber matters and airport tariff matters (2017), and Aadhaar-related matters (2019). It was also submitted that out of 18,459 cases filed since inception, 12,460 have been disposed of with the disposal rate of 67 per cent, rising to 71 per cent during the last three years. He further informed that the mediation centre has achieved a 38 per cent settlement rate. The representative also flagged challenges faced by the Tribunal in front of the Committee such as functioning of the Tribunal from rented premises since 2001 despite its expanded jurisdiction; Tribunal composition remaining unchanged with one Chairperson and two Members only; static sanctioned staff of 49 posts (fixed in 2001) despite increased workload; and pay scale disparities hampering recruitment through deputation.

3. During the interaction several Members raised extensive concerns on jurisdiction over radiation from mobile towers and severe health hazards and further highlighted that TDSAT's jurisdiction is limited to groups of consumers, leaving individual grievances to consumer courts lacking specialized expertise. Members also inquired about feasibility of including individual grievances and establishing an intra-sectoral grievance redressal mechanism. Members strongly recommended that elected representatives such as MPs and MLAs be invited to TDSAT's awareness conferences to enhance public outreach, particularly regarding Aadhaar jurisdiction where despite being assigned in 2016, not a single Direct Benefit Transfer appeal has been received.

4. The Committee expressed serious concerns regarding absence of domain expertise to handle diverse technical matters across telecom, broadcasting, cyber, airport tariff, Aadhaar and Data Protection sectors. It was noted that currently, the Tribunal comprises one Chairperson from the judiciary and two Members (one telecom expert and one retired High Court Judge), leaving gaps for other domains. Regarding cyber fraud, Members raised critical concerns about digital arrests, OTT platform frauds, AI-based frauds, deep-fakes, and international cyber frauds. The Director clarified that TDSAT's cyber jurisdiction is limited to the civil side and appellate only. The Committee viewed these issues as extremely serious and discussed necessity for regulatory frameworks targeting AI, deep-fakes, and OTT platforms, similar to Europe's Digital Services Act.

5. On procedural matters, Members learned that virtual proceedings occur every Monday and hybrid proceedings every Friday, with e-filing expected operational within months. Regarding air ticket tariff arbitrarily increasing during festivals, the Director clarified that TDSAT's jurisdiction pertains only to tariff fixation between airport operators and Airport Authority of India, not airline pricing. Members further inquired about pending Supreme Court cases regarding TDSAT's jurisdiction; the Director mentioned an earlier judgment barring TDSAT from entertaining challenges to TRAI regulations.

6. On compliance monitoring and case clearance, the Chairman sought information on TDSAT's monitoring of service provider compliance with its orders. The Director attributed the decline in case clearance rate from 79 per cent in 2021 to 66 per cent in 2024 to increased case inflow from awareness conferences, particularly in cyber and cable recovery matters. Members suggested TDSAT to explore accommodation in vacant Government buildings rather than waiting for new constructions; the Chairman concurred and directed TDSAT to identify suitable options. The Chairman emphasized the need for immediate preparedness regarding Digital Personal Data Protection Act appeals and Data Protection Board constitution, given the recent notification of rules and upcoming case inflow.

7. The Chairman thanked the Director, TDSAT, and representatives from Ministry for the detailed presentation and responses. The Chairman requested to provide written replies to the questions which were not addressed during the interaction within seven days.

8. A verbatim record of the meeting was kept.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 12.35 P.M.

INDIRA CHATURVEDI VAIDYA
DIRECTOR

New Delhi
20th November, 2025

To

The Chairman and Members of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

*****

DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

RECORD NOTE OF DISCUSSION

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice met at 11:00 A.M. on the 30th December, 2025 in Committee Room 3, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi - 110001. The following Members of the Committee were present:-

1. **Shri Brij Lal - Chairman**

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Vivek K. Tankha
3. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla

LOK SABHA

4. Shri Gaddigoudar Parvatagouda Chandangouda
5. Smt. Manju Sharma
6. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
7. Shri Pushpendra Saroj
8. Shri K Sudhakaran
9. Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Narayanan, Joint Secretary
2. Shri Kuldip Singh, Deputy Secretary
3. Ms. Purva Khanna, Under Secretary

WITNESSES

Department of Legal Affairs

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Arora, Joint Secretary

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)

1. Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) Shri C. V. Bhadang, President
2. Shri Mahavir Singh, Vice President
3. Shri Amitabh Shukla, Accountant Member
4. Shri Manoj Kashyap, Assistant Registrar

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting of the Committee. He apprised them of the agenda of the meeting, which was to deliberate on the subject 'Review of functioning of Tribunal System in the Country' with the officials of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). Thereafter, the Chairman welcomed Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) Shri C. V. Bhadang, President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) along with other senior officials of the Tribunal and Shri Ajay Kumar Arora, Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, to the meeting and invited them to place their views before the Committee.

3. The President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), briefed the Committee on the structure, functioning, and work of the Tribunal. He informed that the ITAT, established in 1941, is the final fact-finding appellate authority in direct tax matters and currently functions through 63 Benches at 28 locations, including two Circuit Benches. He apprised the Committee that against a sanctioned strength of 126 Members, 102 Members are presently in position, and the process for recruitment of 16 additional Members is underway. He further stated that the Tribunal continues to function efficiently under zonal supervision of ten Vice-Presidents and has increasingly adopted digital initiatives such as e-filing and virtual hearings.

4. It was informed that the ITAT has achieved a significant reduction in pendency over the years, with pending cases declining from over one lakh in 2014 to approximately 44,000 as of December 2025, despite an increase in fresh filings. Steps taken to improve infrastructure were highlighted, including new buildings at Delhi and Lucknow, ongoing construction at Kolkata and Ahmedabad, and efforts to resolve infrastructure issues at the Guwahati Bench. At the same time, it was underscored that challenges persist, particularly in respect of ageing infrastructure at the Mumbai headquarters, the need for technological upgradation and cybersecurity strengthening, and vacancies in registry and support staff. The President assured the Committee of the Tribunal's continued commitment to the timely disposal of cases, consistency in decisions, and effective delivery of justice.

5. During the discussion, Hon'ble Members expressed concerns regarding the level of pendency in the ITAT and sought details of appeals pending before various High Courts, including their duration. Members emphasized the need for regular impact assessment of the Tribunal's functioning through structured feedback from stakeholders, particularly litigants and the Bar, to enhance efficiency and public confidence. Information was also sought on the number of appeals from individual North-Eastern States being handled by the Guwahati Bench and the average time

taken for their disposal, given the extensive geographical jurisdiction of a single Bench. Further concerns were raised regarding adequacy of infrastructure, availability of trained personnel, access to modern technology, and the importance of robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard confidential taxpayer data in e-filing and virtual hearing systems. Issues relating to shortage of Members and supporting staff, delays in appointments, and reliance on contractual manpower were also highlighted.

6. Members made suggestions regarding review of eligibility criteria and selection processes for senior positions in the Tribunal, with emphasis on domain expertise in tax laws. Concerns were also expressed about ageing infrastructure at certain locations, need for enhanced budgetary support for buildings, staffing, and technology, clarity regarding the controlling Ministry, and the need for further decentralisation of Benches, particularly in the North-Eastern region, to improve accessibility for small taxpayers and senior citizens. Members also sought information on measures taken by the ITAT to enhance taxpayer awareness and ease of approach. The representatives of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal responded to the issues raised and provided clarifications on steps taken and proposals under consideration to address pendency, manpower, infrastructural challenges, and related matters.

7. The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation and responses and directed them to furnish comprehensive written replies to the queries raised by the Members during the meeting within seven days.

8. A verbatim record of the meeting was kept and the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 P.M.

New Delhi **P.Narayanan**
30th December, 2025 **Joint Secretary**

To

The Chairman and Members of the
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Personnel,
Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

XIV

FOURTEENTH MEETING

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice met at 03:00 PM on 05.08.2026 in Room No. 4, PHAE Building, New Delhi – 110001.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Brij Lal - Chairman

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Naveen Jain
3. Shri Harsh VardhanShringla

LOK SABHA

4. Shri Gaddigoudar Parvatagouda Chandanagouda
5. Shri Dineshbhai Makwana
6. Adv Gowaal Kagada Padavi
7. Shri Radhakrishna
8. Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao
9. Shri Pushpendra Saroj
10. Smt. Manju Sharma
11. Shri K Sudhakaran
12. Shri LaljiVerma
13. Shri Varun Chaudhry
14. Shri P.P Chaudhary

SECRETARIAT

i. Shri P. Narayanan, Joint Secretary
ii. Smt. Indira Chaturvedi Vaidya, Director
iii. Shri Kuldip Singh, Deputy Secretary
iv. Ms. Purva Khanna, Under Secretary

2. The Chairman, at the outset, welcomed Members of the Committee and informed them that the Committee had assembled to consider and adopt the following Draft Reports of the Committee:-

i. * * * *
ii. Draft 166th Report on the Subject 'Review of Functioning of Tribunal System in the Country'.

3. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft * 166th Reports without any modification and decided to present the Reports to both the Houses of Parliament on 07th August, 2026.Shri Dineshbhai Makwana, M.P., and in his absence Shri Radhakrishna, M.P., were nominated to lay the Reports in Lok Sabha, while in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, M.P., was nominated to present the Reports in Rajya Sabha.

4. * * * *

5. The meeting adjourned at 03.30 PM.

New Delhi
05th August, 2026

INDIRA CHATURVEDI VAIDYA
DIRECTOR

To,

The Chairman and Members of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

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*Pertains to other matters

ANNEXURE

Annexure -I

Sl. No	Name of Post	Pay Level	Grade Pay	Total Sanctioned Strength of NGT	SS for HQ Delhi	Sanctioned Strength For each Zonal Bench	Delhi	Pune	Bhopal	Chennai	Kolkata	Person in Position
Group A												
1	Registrar	Level - 13	Rs. 8700	5	**1**	1	1	1	1	0	1	4
2	Dy. Registrar	Level - 12	Rs. 7600	5	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3
3	Assistant Registrar	Level - 11	Rs. 6600	5	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	4
4	DCA	Level - 11	Rs. 6600	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
5	PPS	Level - 11	Rs. 6600	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Group B												
1	Accounts Officer	Level - 09	Rs. 5400	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
2	Hindi Officer	Level - 09	Rs. 5400	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3	Section Officer	Level - 08	Rs. 4800	11	3	2	3	0	1	2	3	9
4	Private Secretary	Level - 08	Rs. 4800	21	5	4	6	1	0	2	1	10
5	Assistant (Judicial)	Level - 07	Rs. 4600	17	5	3	5	4	2	3	2	16
6	Librarian	Level - 06	Rs. 4200	5	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	3
7	Hindi Translator	Level - 06	Rs. 4200	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5

8	Stenographer Gr. I	Level - 06	Rs. 4200	21	5	4	7	3	3	2	2	17
9	Senior Accountant	Level - 06	Rs. 4200	5	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	5
10	Staff Car Driver (Special Grade)	Level - 06	Rs. 4200	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group C												
1	Staff Car Driver (Grade -I)	Level - 5	Rs. 2800	2	No sanctioned strength indicated bench wise		0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Stenographer Gr. II	Level - 4	Rs. 2400	12	4	2	3	1	0	1	2	7
3	Accountant	Level - 4	Rs. 2400	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	5
4	Staff Car Driver (Grade -II)	Level - 4	Rs. 2400	6	No sanctioned strength indicated bench wise		4	2	0	0	0	6
5	Staff Car Driver (OG)	Level - 2	Rs. 1900	12	No sanctioned strength indicated bench wise		6	1	0	1	1	9
6	MTS	Level - 1	Rs. 1800	24	8	4	19	2	4	7	3	35*
Total				166			66	19	16	22	19	142

***45 MTS have been appointed by the NGT as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in it order dated 10.10.2012 passed in SLP (Civil) No 12065/2009 in re.UOIvsBimalBhai**