

Supreme Court of India (Public Relations Office)

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PRESS NOTE

With an aim of ensuring accessibility in the justice system and understanding the hardships faced by the specially abled persons, in their interface with the Apex Court, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has called for a comprehensive Accessibility audit of the Supreme Court premises.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed on December 3 every year, Justice Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud has constituted a "Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility" chaired by a sitting judge of the Apex Court. The Committee headed by Justice S Ravindra Bhat has been asked to conduct an accessibility audit extending to both physical as well as technology accessibility. The Committee has also been tasked to prepare and release a questionnaire for persons with disabilities, who visit the Supreme Court premises to assess the nature and extent of the problems they face.

Inputs will also be sought by the Committee from Supreme Court Advocates, litigants, interns etc. The Committee also including a Professor from NLU Bengaluru shall prepare a report which contains the results of the audit and survey and shall recommend proposals geared towards removing barriers to access.

A differently abled person employed at the Supreme Court, a differently abled Advocate nominated by Supreme Court Bar Association and a person nominated by the Centre for Disability Studies at NALSAR University of Law are other members of the Committee. An Officer of the Supreme Court Registry will be the Member Secretary of the Committee.

The above initiative of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is in lines with the World Health Organisation's this year theme " Transformative solutions for inclusive development : the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world".