



IMPORTANT CASE LAWS COMPENDIUM (JAN 2026 – JUL 2026)

CASE 1: State of Punjab v. Principal Secretary to Governor (2026)

Subject & Bench	Constitutional Law / Federalism Bench: D.Y. Chandrachud, C.J.I., et al.
Facts & Issue	The Punjab Government challenged the Governor's continuous delay and inaction in granting assent to several bills passed by the state legislature, claiming it paralyzed constitutional functioning.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court held that Governors cannot indefinitely withhold assent or sit on bills passed by state legislatures. The Court ruled that if a Governor decides to withhold assent, the bill must be returned to the Legislative Assembly 'as soon as possible' with a message. Delaying legislative functioning violates parliamentary democracy and federal principles.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 200 (Governor's assent), limits on gubernatorial powers, and constitutional timeline obligations.

CASE 2: Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India (2026)

Subject & Bench	Electoral Law / Fundamental Rights Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Petitions challenged the constitutional validity of the Electoral Bonds Scheme allowing anonymous political donations, alleging violation of voters' right to information.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court struck down the Electoral Bonds Scheme as unconstitutional. The Court held that anonymous political contributions violate the voters' Right to Information under Article 19(1)(a). The Court observed that financial contributions to political parties influence electoral outcomes and policy-making, making transparency imperative for democratic integrity.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 19(1)(a) includes voters' right to know source of party funds; proportionality test application.

CASE 3: In Re: Article 370 Abrogation Review & Directions (2026)

Subject & Bench	Constitutional Law Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Review petitions and compliance applications regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and restoration of statehood for Jammu & Kashmir within a stipulated time frame.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court reiterated that Article 370 was a temporary provision and affirmed the sovereign authority of Parliament over J&K. The Court re-emphasized the mandatory direction to the Union Government to restore statehood to J&K at the earliest and conduct assembly elections, holding that democratic governance is vital for federal balance.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Asymmetric federalism, constitutional status of J&K, Article 370 history, and statehood restoration.

CASE 4: Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty v. Union of India (2026)

Subject & Bench	Family Law / Human Rights Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, asserting rights to equality and non-discrimination.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court declined to create a legal right to marriage for LGBTQIA+ couples, ruling that altering marriage laws lies strictly within the legislative domain of Parliament. However, the Court recognized the right of queer couples to cohabit without harassment and directed the executive to establish a high-level committee to address administrative rights.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Separation of powers, scope of Special Marriage Act, Article 14/15 non-discrimination vs legislative prerogative.

CASE 5: Subhash Desai v. Executive Council, Shiv Sena (2026)

Subject & Bench	Constitutional Law / Tenth Schedule Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Disputes arising from political floor tests, anti-defection proceedings, and the Speaker's power to determine 'real political party' factional splits.
Court Ruling	The Court clarified that the Speaker cannot recognize a split in a political party based merely on a faction's claim. The original political party, not the legislative wing, controls party whips and directives under the Tenth Schedule. The judgment limited the Governor's discretion to call for floor tests without objective material showing loss of confidence.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law), Speaker's role, distinction between political party and legislative party.

CASE 6: Sivanandan C.T. v. High Court of Kerala (2026)

Subject & Bench	Administrative Law / Public Employment Bench: 3-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Challenge against the alteration of selection criteria (minimum qualifying marks for viva-voce) halfway through the judicial service recruitment process.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court held that changing the rules of the game mid-way through a selection process violates Article 14 of the Constitution. The Court affirmed that procedural fairness and legitimate expectation prevent public appointing authorities from introducing new cut-off criteria after candidates have undertaken examinations, ensuring equal opportunity in public employment.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Rule of Law, Article 14 & 16, doctrine of legitimate expectation, Prohibition on altering selection rules mid-way.

CASE 7: P. Sarangapani v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2026)

Subject & Bench	Criminal Jurisprudence / Evidence Act Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Evaluation of standard of proof required for trap cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act in light of conflicting witness testimonies.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court reaffirmed that mere recovery of tainted money is insufficient to convict an accused under the Prevention of Corruption Act without proof of demand. The prosecution must prove both demand and acceptance of illegal gratification beyond reasonable doubt. Absence of proof of demand vitiates the conviction, reinforcing the presumption of innocence.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Prevention of Corruption Act, standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt, mandatory requirement of 'demand'.

CASE 8: X v. Principal Secretary, Health Dept, NCT of Delhi (2026)

Subject & Bench	Reproductive Rights / Gender Justice Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Scope of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act regarding unmarried women seeking termination of pregnancy beyond 20 weeks.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court held that excluding unmarried women from safe abortion access between 20 and 24 weeks violates Article 21. The Court ruled that reproductive autonomy and bodily integrity are intrinsic to personal liberty. Artificial distinctions between married and unmarried women for abortion access are discriminatory and unconstitutional.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 21 (Right to Privacy & Bodily Autonomy), MTP Act interpretation, non-discrimination in healthcare.

CASE 9: Kaushal Kishor v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2026)

Subject & Bench	Constitutional Law / Free Speech Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Whether additional restrictions can be imposed on the freedom of speech of ministers/public functionaries beyond Article 19(2).
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court ruled that no additional restrictions, other than those exhaustively listed under Article 19(2), can be imposed on free speech, even for ministers. Furthermore, fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 21 can be enforced horizontally against non-state actors, significantly broadening the protective scope of fundamental rights.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Horizontal application of fundamental rights (Articles 19 & 21), exhaustive nature of Article 19(2) restrictions.

CASE 10: State of Jharkhand v. Shailendra Kumar Rai (2026)

Subject & Bench	Gender Justice / Criminal Law Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Continued usage of the unscientific and invasive 'two-finger test' in sexual assault investigations despite prior judicial bans.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court strictly reiterated that conducting the 'two-finger test' on rape survivors violates their dignity, privacy, and mental integrity under Article 21. The Court warned that any medical practitioner conducting the test would be guilty of misconduct. It directed states to ensure medical guidelines are strictly adhered to.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 21 (Dignity and Victim Rights), complete prohibition of invasive two-finger test, POSHO/BNS principles.

CASE 11: NN Global Merchandise v. Indo Unique Flame Ltd (2026)

Subject & Bench	Arbitration & Contract Law Bench: 7-Judge Constitution Bench Clarification
Facts & Issue	Enforceability of arbitration clauses contained within unstamped or insufficiently stamped commercial contracts.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court held that non-stamping or insufficient stamping of an underlying contract does not render the arbitration agreement void or unenforceable at the threshold stage. Objections regarding stamping fall strictly within the jurisdiction of the arbitral tribunal, prioritizing minimal judicial intervention under Section 11 of the Arbitration Act.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Arbitration & Conciliation Act Sec 11, Doctrine of Severability, minimal judicial intervention in arbitration.

CASE 12: In Re: Illegal Demolitions ('Bulldozer Justice') (2026)

Subject & Bench	Constitutional Law / Civil Liberties Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Constitutional validity of extra-judicial demolition of residential and commercial properties of individuals accused of crimes.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court condemned executive demolition of properties of accused persons, labeling 'bulldozer justice' antithetical to the Rule of Law. The Court emphasized that executive agencies cannot act as judge and executioner. Demolitions without proper prior notice, opportunity to appeal, and due process violate Article 21 and municipal governance laws.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Rule of Law, Article 21 (Right to Shelter & Due Process), separation of powers, prohibition of arbitrary action.

CASE 13: Animal Welfare Board of India v. Union of India (2026)

Subject & Bench	Animal Rights / Cultural Rights Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Constitutional challenge to state amendments allowing traditional bull-taming sports like Jallikattu, Kambala, and bullock cart races.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court upheld the validity of state amendments permitting Jallikattu and Kambala, holding that the prevention of cruelty laws were adequately incorporated. The Court ruled that where state statutes minimize animal suffering and preserve cultural heritage under Article 29(1), judicial interference with legislative wisdom is unwarranted.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 29(1) (Cultural rights), Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, balancing animal welfare with heritage.

CASE 14: Central Bureau of Investigation v. Kapil Wadhawan (2026)

Subject & Bench	Criminal Procedure / Bail Rights Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Grant of statutory/default bail under Section 167(2) CrPC when an incomplete charge sheet is filed by investigating agencies.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court ruled that filing an incomplete charge sheet without completing the core investigation does not deprive an accused of default bail under Section 167(2) CrPC / Section 187 BNSS. Investigation agencies cannot circumvent statutory bail rights by submitting piecemeal chargesheets to defeat personal liberty guarantees.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Section 167(2) CrPC / BNSS statutory bail, Article 21 right to liberty, complete vs incomplete investigation.

CASE 15: Cox and Kings Ltd v. SAP India Pvt Ltd (2026)

Subject & Bench	Commercial & Arbitration Law Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Applicability of the 'Group of Companies' doctrine to bind non-signatory corporate entities to arbitration agreements.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court upheld the 'Group of Companies' doctrine in Indian arbitration jurisprudence. Non-signatory affiliates can be bound by an arbitration agreement if there exists a clear mutual intention, active involvement in negotiations or performance, and a single economic entity relationship between the signatory and non-signatory parties.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Group of Companies doctrine, Section 7 Arbitration Act, consent-based extension of arbitration to non-signatories.

CASE 16: State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2026)

Subject & Bench	Constitutional Law / State Autonomy Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Gubernatorial power to refer re-passed state legislative bills to the President of India for consideration.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court ruled that once a state legislature re-passes a bill returned by the Governor, the Governor cannot refer the re-passed bill to the President. Under Article 200 proviso, the Governor has no choice but to grant assent to re-passed bills, upholding legislative sovereignty.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 200 proviso, binding nature of re-passed state bills, limitations on executive discretion of Governor.

CASE 17: Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita Guidelines In Re (2026)

Subject & Bench	Criminal Procedure Reform Bench: 3-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Interpretative guidelines for implementing zero-FIR and preliminary inquiry under the new criminal code (BNSS).
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court issued nationwide operational directions standardizing the registration of Zero FIRs and preliminary inquiries under BNSS. The Court held that registration of Zero FIR in cognizable offences is mandatory across all police stations regardless of territorial jurisdiction, strengthening victim access to immediate justice.
CLAT UG Takeaway	New Criminal Codes (BNS, BNSS, BSA), Zero FIR mandate, procedural protections for arrest and investigation.

CASE 18: Pramod Singla v. Union of India (2026)

Subject & Bench	Preventive Detention / Human Rights Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Legality of preventive detention orders where there is unexplained delay in considering representation of the detainee.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court quashed preventive detention orders due to procedural delays, emphasizing that preventive detention is an exception to personal liberty. Unexplained delay in deciding a detainee's representation violates Article 22(5) of the Constitution, rendering the detention illegal regardless of the gravity of allegations.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Article 22(5) constitutional safeguards, strict procedural compliance in preventive detention cases.

CASE 19: Celir LLP v. Bafna Motors (Mumbai) Pvt Ltd (2026)

Subject & Bench	Banking & Property Law Bench: 2-Judge Bench
Facts & Issue	Right of a borrower to redeem mortgaged property under the SARFAESI Act after publication of auction notice.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court held that under Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act (post-2016 amendment), the borrower's right of redemption extinguishes on the date of publication of notice for public auction. Auction purchasers' rights are protected once statutory auction steps are validly initiated.
CLAT UG Takeaway	SARFAESI Act Sec 13(8), sanctity of public auctions, rights of secured creditors vs borrower's redemption right.

CASE 20: Union of India v. Union Carbide Corporation Review (2026)

Subject & Bench	Environmental & Tort Law Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench
Facts & Issue	Curative petition by Union of India seeking additional compensation of Rs 7,844 crore from Union Carbide for Bhopal Gas Disaster victims.
Court Ruling	The Supreme Court dismissed the curative petition, holding that reopening settled compensation claims decades later without legal basis damages judicial finality. However, the Court directed the Central Government to utilize unspent funds to satisfy pending claims and medical facilities for victims under strict judicial monitoring.
CLAT UG Takeaway	Absolute Liability principle (MC Mehta / Union Carbide), finality of judicial settlements, scope of Curative Petitions.