


ASSESSING INDIA'S NATIONAL LITIGATION POLICY

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Abstract

The National Litigation Policy (NLP) in India is a critical response to the significant backlog of cases in the judicial system, emphasising the necessity of an efficient policy framework. This report delves into the impact of the NLP on government litigation, addressing key theories, concepts, and findings from existing literature. It highlights the challenges of the NLP's limited influence on government litigation, the role of public interest litigation (PIL), stakeholder engagement, enforcement complexities, and the integration of technology. Gaps in knowledge are identified, including the NLP's varied impact on government litigation types, long-term effects on justice accessibility and societal change. The report stresses the importance of deeper stakeholder analysis, robust enforcement strategies, and bridging the digital gap for enhanced justice accessibility. Ultimately, it underscores the imperative of sustainability and outlines future pathways for the NLP.



Overview

India's judicial system faces significant delays due to a high volume of pending cases. In this huge pendency of cases, the government is involved in nearly half of them. This includes not only ministries but also public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other autonomous bodies. Understanding why the government is the biggest litigant is crucial. Litigation burdens both the judiciary and the government by delaying decision-making and through the wastage of public exchequer money. In India's decentralised system, it remains unclear which level of government truly contributes the most to litigation. Subsequently judicial interventions have made the definition of "state" under Article 12 of the Constitution of India more expansive.

Most of the cases currently clogging the country's judicial system involve either the Central government, State government(s), or PSUs. In a pivotal move to tackle this pressing issue, the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, organised a

national consultation on October 24th and 25th, 2009 with the specific goal of tackling judicial delays and reducing case backlogs. This led to the formulation of the "National Litigation Policy, 2010" (hereinafter referred to as the "2010 Policy"). Regrettably, despite its well-conceived nature, this policy has yet to be effectively implemented.

The absence of a litigation strategy has also been in focus in the judgments of the Supreme Court. These judgments have consistently emphasised on the crucial importance of a 'National Litigation Policy' and articulated concern over the inefficiency and wastage of resources attributable to the Government's current approach. For instance, in *Union of India v. Prithwi Singh* (2018) 16 SCC 363, the Supreme Court remarked on the Union of India's apparent disregard for the 2010 Policy and, in effect, the justice delivery system. The Court observed that the 2010 Policy was under review and there were plans for introducing "National Litigation Policy, 2015". However, definitive

timelines regarding its finalisation and subsequent implementation were conspicuously absent. Simultaneously, the Court held that the Union of India overlooked crucial steps in the “Action Plan to Reduce Government Litigation” (“Action Plan”) formulated on June 13th, 2017. This plan emphasises that appeals should only be filed in cases which touch upon significant policy matters and vexatious litigation should be promptly withdrawn. Further, in a prior judgement in *Urban Improvement Trust, Bikaner v. Mohan Lal* (2010) 1 SCC 512, the Supreme Court highlighted the pivotal role of legal

officers in government entities in perpetuating unnecessary litigation. It underscored the imperative for State governments and statutory authorities to act decisively in eradicating vexatious litigation, in line with the Central government's policy on the matter.

These judicial observations consistently underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive ‘National Litigation Policy (NLP)’, which would require a unified approach from both the Central and State governments, along with PSU’s, in initiating and prosecuting legal matters.

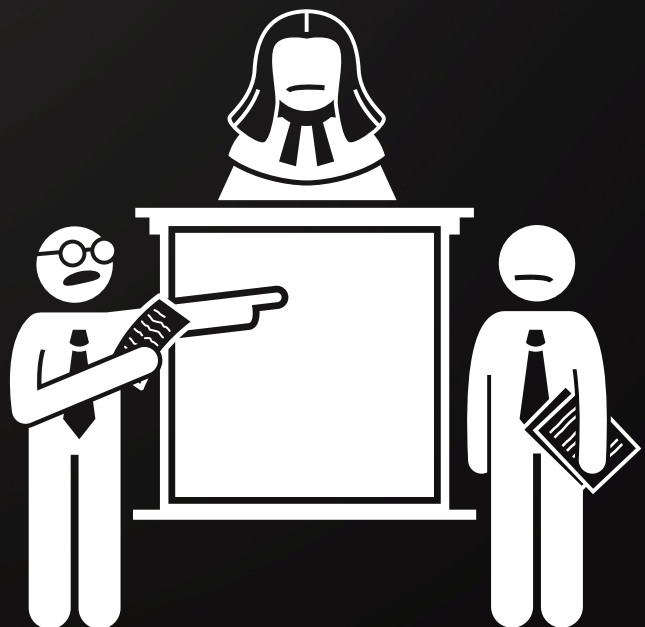


Introduction to the 2010 Policy

The NLP was introduced as a comprehensive policy document. NLP was first drafted in 2010 with a goal to transform India's overburdened judicial system into a fair, accessible, and efficient instrument for justice. The core objectives of the NLP include prioritising government cases and improving the manner in which these cases are conducted. By doing so, it was anticipated that valuable court time can be saved, contributing to a more efficient and expeditious legal system.

The NLP that was drafted in 2010, advocates for the need for a transformation in the government's approach to litigation, emphasising on efficiency and responsibility. The focus of the draft policy was on the cohesive and time-bound management of cases, and a commitment to winning meritorious cases while avoiding unnecessary persistence in weak ones. Under the draft policy an "efficient litigant" is characterised by, competent and sensitive legal representation, recognising the unique nature of

government litigation whereas a "**responsible litigant**" is characterised by someone who commits to avoiding litigation for its own sake, discouraging false pleas, and ensuring transparent presentation of accurate facts and relevant documents before the court.



The draft policy also acknowledges the government's inclination to resort to litigation, and instead encourages a shift towards resolving matters outside of the courtroom. The inclination of "**let the court decide**" by the government is criticised, emphasising the need to eschew such an approach. The policy aims to curtail government litigation, prioritising efficient use of court time to address pending cases, aligning with the National Legal Mission's goal of reducing average pendency from 15 to 3 years. It underscores the importance of litigators adhering to principles outlined in the National Mission for judicial reforms, identifying and addressing bottlenecks, and

eliminating unnecessary government cases. Prioritisation in litigation is emphasised, with a focus on welfare legislation, social reform, and assisting vulnerable groups like senior citizens, aligning with the broader goal of achieving judicial efficiency and reform.

A one-size-fits-all solution won't work. We need to identify what types of government litigation are excessive and design targeted interventions to reduce them. This will create a more efficient justice system where both the government and the public can hold each other accountable in a fair and mutually beneficial way.



Problem Statement

Despite being conceived in 2010, the NLP remains in abeyance, hindering its potential to address the critical issue of government litigation in India. This delay exacerbates the existing problem of a massive backlog of cases within the judicial system, **currently exceeding the 5-crore mark**. As a result, government litigation continues unabated, contributing significantly to the backlog while lacking a clear strategic focus. This leads to unnecessary cases, underutilisation of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, and inconsistent approaches across states. Furthermore, the lack of a defined policy fosters a culture of limited accountability for government agencies in their litigation decisions. These factors, in turn, exacerbate the burden on the judiciary, erode public confidence in the justice system, incur unnecessary financial costs, and negatively impact the business environment. The urgent need for an effective NLP is evident, as it can pave the way for a more efficient and accountable judicial system,

fostering a more just and equitable society for all. However, following are the two major problems:

- **High involvement of the government**, including PSUs and autonomous bodies, in legal proceedings in India. The statistics from the 2019 study, from the Ministry of Law & Justice, indicate that the government is a party to around 46 percent of court cases in the country. The table below provides insights into the legal activities and performance of different government departments in terms of case management and resolution during the year 2022. The win rates indicate the proportion of cases that were either won or settled by each department. A higher win rate suggests a more successful resolution of cases.



Department	Cases Filed (2022)	Cases Disposed (2022)	Win Rate (in %)
Ministry of Finance	52,314	42,651	81.50
Ministry of Home Affairs	34,251	29,117	84.70
Ministry of Railways	28,412	23,985	84.40
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	21,453	17,821	82.90
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	19,321	15,941	82.40

- India's judicial system is **drowning in a sea of over 50 million pending cases**, a number that continues to rise each year. This backlog creates a crisis of access to justice, disproportionately affecting the marginalised and vulnerable. The [table](#) on the next page provides an overview of the judicial infrastructure and caseload for 5 states. The "Orders

Not Uploaded" column indicates the number of orders that have not been uploaded in the database. This data is crucial for understanding the workload, efficiency, and transparency in the judicial system of five different states. It also highlights the importance of digital record-keeping to ensure accessibility and accountability in the legal processes.

States	Total Districts	Total Court Complexes	Total Establishments	Pending + Disposed Cases	Total Orders	Orders Not Uploaded
Delhi	11	12	47	5132492	18238834	2375029
Haryana	21	59	147	7733683	56366568	1179759
Maharashtra	40	498	680	26015868	14642984	8682185
Punjab	22	69	198	6944099	65792047	1202635
Uttar Pradesh	74	185	531	38474734	8811245	16707693

Research Objective

India's justice system is burdened by a crippling backlog of over 50 million cases, and is failing to deliver timely and equitable justice, particularly for the marginalised. The NLP, drafted in 2010, stands as a beacon of hope to transform this system into a welfarist instrument for social progress. However, its effectiveness remains shrouded in doubt due to uneven implementation and persistent challenges. This research aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of 'How can the NLP be implemented to effectively reduce the backlog and ensure access to justice for all', particularly marginalised communities highlighting key challenges hindering the NLP's welfarist goals, such as optional enforcement, inadequate awareness, and infrastructure deficiencies. Further, this research also dwells into the role of ADR mechanisms in supporting the NLP's welfarist objectives and reducing litigation burdens. It will offer valuable recommendations for policy makers, stakeholders, and civil society

organisations with regards to:

- **Implementation of NLP's framework:** Addressing optional enforcement, promoting awareness, and investing in infrastructure.
- **Harnessing the ADR mechanism:** Leveraging mediation, conciliation, and arbitration to reduce burdens and empower communities.
- **Adapting to the evolving needs:** Regularly reviewing the NLP, addressing new challenges like technology integration, judicial vacancies, and adaptation to state-specific realities.
- **Fostering a culture of accountability:** Promoting transparency, data-driven decision making, and responsible litigation within the government.

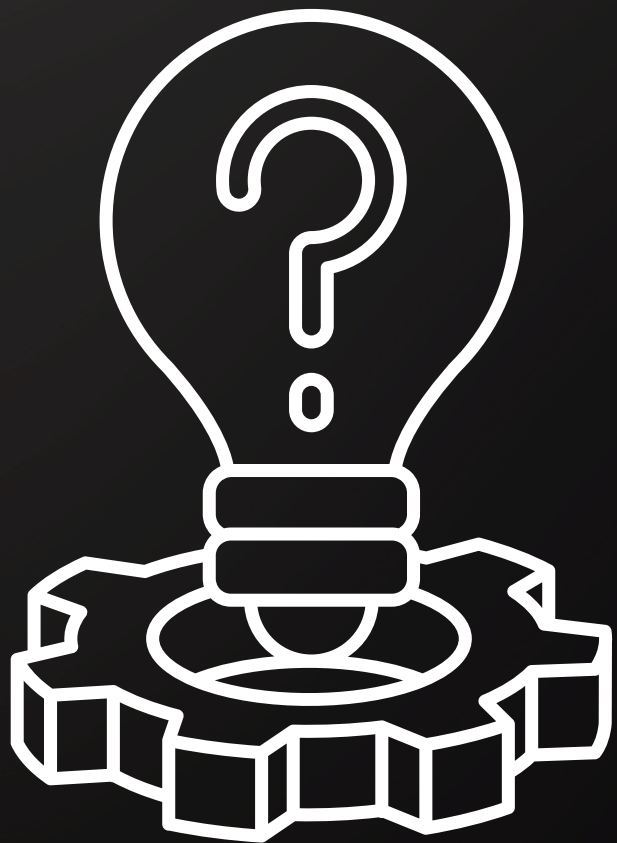


Research Questions

- What is the need of NLP and to what extent does it address the key challenges faced by government litigation in India, including pendency, costs, and strategic decision-making?
- Status of NLP in India? How effectively are stakeholders across different government departments and levels (national, state, local) informed and engaged with the NLP's provisions and implementation process?
- What are the key challenges faced in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the NLP's implementation with the special reference role of technology and digitalisation in facilitating NLP implementation?
- What mechanisms are in place to monitor and enforce compliance with the NLP's guidelines and principles?
- What are the societal, economic, and political implications of a more efficient and responsible government litigation system? How has the NLP impacted the cost-effectiveness of government litigation practices?

Study Rationale

The study highlights the importance of a well-designed NLP in improving government litigation practices. It emphasises the need for clear objectives, actionable measures, and effective communication strategies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the legal process. Additionally, the report emphasises the importance of effective communication and capacity building for stakeholders to ensure consistent understanding and application of the NLP. Developing robust data collection systems and clear performance indicators is crucial for monitoring and evaluating the NLP's impact. The study also suggests that improved government litigation practices can lead to an increase in access to justice, reduce burden on courts, and enhance investor confidence. Furthermore, effective implementation of the NLP can help reduce pendency through strategic decision-making, ADR mechanisms, and efficient case management.



Literature Review

The literature review focuses on existing studies, case laws, law reports and research papers that discuss the NLP, its goals, challenges in implementation, and its impact on improving access to justice in India.


The need for a concrete litigation policy was first dealt with by **Justice Krishna Iyer in the Dilbagh Rai vs UOI (1974)** case, highlighting the need for a robust NLP. Justice Krishna Iyer emphasised that the state, being the largest litigant, should adopt a more sensible and responsible litigation policy to avoid unnecessary expenditures from the public exchequer.

Again, in the **State of Punjab V. Geeta Iron & Brass Works Ltd. (1978) 1 SCC 68** the Hon'ble Supreme Court made the following observation, "we like to emphasise that governments must be made accountable by Parliamentary social audit for wasteful litigative expenditure inflicted on the community by inaction".

Furthermore, in **Chief Conservator**

of Forests V. Collector, (2003) 3 SCC 472 the apex observed that, "**The state/ Union must evolve a mechanism to set at rest all interdepartmental controversies at the level of the Government and such matters should not be carried to a court of law for resolution of the controversy**". After reading all the above-mentioned cases, the emphasis of the Supreme Court is on adopting a responsible and sensible strategy to avoid unnecessary legal expenditures and to resolve disputes at the government level whenever possible, minimising the need for court intervention.


It is also pertinent to mention that the Law Commission of India has also recognised the importance of addressing issues related to litigation involving the government and PSUs. In its **100th Report (1984) on "Litigation by and against the Government"**, the Commission made recommendations for reform in this specific area. This report focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of legal processes involving government entities.



Furthermore, the Law Commission in its 126th Report on “Government and Public Sector Undertaking Litigation Policy and Strategies”, the Law Commission delved into the contributory causes for the proliferation of government litigation. The report emphasised the need for the government and PSUs to have their own litigation policies and strategies to reduce unnecessary legal disputes.

Despite these early discussions, it took almost 37 years before the first draft of the NLP was issued in 2010. India's NLP, drafted in 2010, was a bold vision, to transform the overburdened judicial system into a welfarist instrument for social progress. The fact that it took almost 50 years from the initial discussions to the implementation of the first draft till today highlights the complexity and challenges involved in formulating a comprehensive policy that addresses the various aspects of litigation in the country.

The NLP in India has had a limited impact on government litigation, as evidenced by the high percentage of court cases involving the government. This is consistent with the findings of Gauri (2009), who notes that PIL, a key aspect of the NLP, constitutes a small proportion of overall cases.




Stakeholder engagement in public policy, including the NLP, is crucial

for its success (Tyagi, 2019).


According to NLP, the appointment of Nodal Officers under the NLP is crucial for ensuring its effective implementation. According to the policy, these officers are required to be appointed by the Heads of Departments (HoDs) with careful consideration. The qualifications outlined in the NLP mandate that Nodal Officers must have a legal background and possess expertise in litigation management. The policy emphasises the need for these officers to proactively manage litigation. Furthermore, Nodal Officers are required to undergo training to ensure they understand and fulfil their responsibilities under the NLP. This underscores the importance of Nodal Officers having practical experience, training, and education in addition to legal knowledge to effectively handle cases.

Accountability is a fundamental pillar of the NLP, manifesting at various levels within its framework. The key stakeholders responsible for accountability include all involved lawyers, Nodal Officers, HoDs, the Empowered Committee, and the Officers-in-Charge of litigation. The accountability structure aims to evaluate case handling by retrospectively analysing lost cases and conducting detailed scrutiny. In cases of non-compliance, appropriate actions must be taken. The Empowered Committee, chaired



by the Attorney General of India and comprising six members nominated by the Ministry of Law and Justice, oversees the implementation of the NLP. Nodal Officers and HoDs are required to provide essential litigation data for effective monitoring. Furthermore, the NLP establishes four regional empowered committees under the National Empowered Committee (NEC). Each regional committee, led by an additional solicitor general and assistant solicitor general, must submit monthly reports to the NEC for comprehensive oversight and feedback.

Citizen engagement in public sector oversight, particularly through "hybrid" forms of accountability, can also enhance the effectiveness of policy implementation ([Goetz, 2001](#)). These studies collectively highlight the need for informed and engaged stakeholders across different government departments and levels in India to effectively implement the NLP. The enforcement of the NLP in India is a complex issue, with various mechanisms in place.



The role of technology and digitalisation in India's NLP implementation is significant, as it has led to the development of the e-Courts project, which has enhanced transparency and efficiency in the judiciary ([Verma, 2018](#)). This is in line with the state's legal policy, which has been influenced by the

digitalisation of processes, making it more accessible and understandable ([Korobova, 2020](#)). The Digital India Programme, a key driver of this transformation, has not only improved citizen services but also contributed to economic growth and the achievement of sustainable development goals ([Vijayan, 2019](#)). However, the digital transformation also presents challenges, such as the need for new laws and regulations to govern digital activities ([Tikhomirov, 2021](#)).

The NLP has had a significant impact on government litigation practices, particularly in the context of PIL. Chaudhary (2020) and [Gauri \(2009\)](#) both highlight the role of the judiciary in addressing societal grievances through PIL, with Chaudhary emphasising the focus on community-level issues. However, Gauri also raises concerns about the impact of PIL on sector governance and inequality. [Raja \(2008\)](#) provides a framework for analysing the economic efficiency of PIL, suggesting that it can be a cost-effective method of redressal in certain cases. However, Raja also notes the potential for strategic use of PIL for private ends. These studies collectively suggest that while the NIL has enhanced the cost-effectiveness of government litigation practices in some instances, there are also challenges and potential abuses that need to be addressed.

The NLP has been a significant factor in addressing the issue of pendency in Indian courts, but its impact has been limited. The policy, which aims to reduce the number of cases involving the government, has had some success in expediting the resolution of these cases ([Kumar, 2011](#)). However, the overall pendency of government cases in Indian courts remains high, with a significant number of cases pending for extended periods ([Dalat, 2022](#)). This is due to a range of factors,

including the judiciary's failure to provide timely justice ([Dalat, 2022](#)), the docket explosion and arrears of pending cases (Ghosh, 2018), and the delay in the administration of justice ([Chaudhary, 2022](#)). Therefore, while the NLP has made some progress, further measures are needed to effectively reduce the overall pendency of government cases in Indian courts.

Here are the key theories, concepts, and findings from the literature review, arranged in a tabular format:

Theory/Concept	Finding
Limited Impact on Government Litigation	The NLP has had a limited impact on government litigation, as evidenced by the high percentage of court cases involving the government.
PIL	PIL has been effective in, with judicial intervention and media coverage playing a key role.
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder engagement is crucial for the success of the NLP.
Enforcement Mechanisms	The enforcement of the NLP in India is complex, with various mechanisms in place. PIL has been effective in some cases, but the effectiveness of in-house mechanisms has been questioned.
Technology and Digitalisation	The role of technology and digitalisation in NLP's implementation is significant, as it has led to the development of the e-Courts project, which has enhanced transparency and efficiency in the judiciary.
Impact on Government Litigation Practices	The NLP has had a significant impact on government litigation practices, particularly in the context of PIL.
Impact on Pendency	The NLP has been a significant factor in addressing the issue of pendency in courts, but its impact has been limited.

Research Gaps in Knowledge about the NLP identified through the Literature Review

Impact and Effectiveness

- **Limited scope:** Most studies on NLP focus on PIL and its impact on specific areas like the environment. Research is needed on the NLP's impact across different types of government litigation (e.g., commercial disputes, criminal cases, etc).
- **Long-term impact:** Existing studies mainly analyse immediate outcomes. Research is needed to understand the NLP's long-term impact on access to justice, governance, and social change.
- **Comparative analysis:** While studies compare NLP with PIL, further comparison with other countries' litigation policies could offer valuable insights into best practices and potential improvements.

Implementation and Challenges

- **Stakeholder perspectives:** While the literature acknowledges the importance of stakeholder engagement, deeper analysis of

specific stakeholder needs and challenges (e.g., lawyers, judges, citizens) is needed for effective implementation strategies.

- **Enforcement mechanisms:** The research could delve deeper into the effectiveness of existing enforcement mechanisms (e.g., in-house committees, judicial oversight) and explore potential alternatives for better compliance.
- **Digital divide:** The review mentions the e-Courts project but doesn't address the digital divide and its impact on access to justice in remote areas or for underprivileged communities.

Sustainability and Future Directions

- **Economic analysis:** While Raja (2008) examines the cost-effectiveness of PIL, a broader economic analysis of the NLP's overall impact on litigation costs and efficiency is needed.
- **Emerging issues:** Research could explore how the NLP can adapt

to emerging challenges like climate change, cybercrime, and new technologies.

- **Policy recommendations:** Based on the research findings, developing concrete policy recommendations for improving the NLP's effectiveness and addressing identified gaps.

Additional Areas for Exploration

- **Media coverage:** Analyse the role of media in amplifying the

impact of NLP initiatives and identify strategies for further engagement.

- **ADR:** Explore the potential of integrating ADR mechanisms with the NLP to reduce court congestion and improve access to justice.
- **Capacity Building:** Investigate the training and support needed for stakeholders (e.g., lawyers, judges, citizens) to effectively participate in the NLP framework.



RESEARCH

GAP

Trends in Litigation

To ensure the success of this policy, it is essential for all stakeholders to actively participate. This includes the Ministry of Law & Justice, heads of various departments, law officers, government counsel, and individual officers involved in the related litigation. The effectiveness of this policy hinges on its rigorous implementation. Therefore, analysing the trends in litigation and the reason for pendency it is crucial for the policymakers and stakeholders to understand the challenges faced by the legal system and implement effective strategies to address the backlog.

By taking necessary steps to improve judicial efficiency and accessibility, we can work towards a more reliable and efficient justice delivery system for all. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has provided data on pendency of civil and criminal cases, which indeed is insightful and concerning. It clearly shows a worrying trend of increasing backlogs, particularly in recent years.

Here are some key observations:

- **Until 2010:** The number in the data below represents the count of cases that were registered before the respective years and were still pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Pendency refers to the number of cases that have not been resolved or concluded. The number of pending cases, while not insignificant, remained relatively stable from 2005 to 2009, ranging from 63 to 529 for civil cases and 5 to 84 for criminal cases.

Year	Civil	Criminal
2005	63	5
2006	105	1
2007	137	9
2008	191	22
2009	249	40
2010	529	84

- **2011-2015:** There's a noticeable jump in the pendency during this period, with civil cases nearly doubling from 1013 in 2011 to 2147 in 2015. Criminal cases also saw a steady increase, reaching 570 in 2015.

Year	Civil	Criminal
2011	1013	217
2012	1504	286
2013	1407	579
2014	1727	532
2015	2147	570

- **Post 2015:** The trend continues with an alarming surge in pending cases, especially for civil matters. By 2023, the number of pending civil cases has skyrocketed to a staggering 12090, almost ten times the

figure in 2010. Criminal cases, while not rising as sharply, still show a concerning increase to 5438 in 2023.

Year	Civil	Criminal
2016	3102	378
2017	3734	740
2018	4121	849
2019	5272	1308
2020	3615	697
2021	3922	1183
2022	5973	1762
2023	12090	5438

Further research through RTI requests, ministry reports, and legal databases can provide a more nuanced picture of these trends.



Judicial Decisions and Reports Indicating the Need for the NLP

Union of India v. Pirthwi Singh, (2018):

The judgement mentions about NLP and defines an efficient and a responsible litigant. Along with this the Court emphasised on the fact that the government must cease to be a compulsive litigant and the notion of matters to be left to the courts for ultimate decision must be discarded. The court observed that litigators on behalf of the government have to keep in mind the principles incorporated in the National Mission for judicial reforms which includes identifying bottlenecks which the government and its agencies may be concerned with and also removing unnecessary government cases.

Saroj Kumar vs State of Jharkhand (2012):

The Jharkhand High Court observed on how NLP led to the formulation of the State's own Litigation Policy with minor changes to accommodate its needs. Furthermore, The High Court ordered various directions on

effective management of government litigations.

Commissioner of Income Tax v. National Internet Exchange of India (2020) (SLP C Diary No 5567/20190) (Decided on 02/03/2020):

In this order the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) of India placed the litigation policy qua the disputes between the Governments and public sector enterprises which would be handled through the administrative mechanism for resolution of CPSEs disputes (AMRCD). The ASG also stated that the policy applies to non-revenue matters and more time is required to matters regarding revenue matters.

State of Rajasthan v. Man Sukh Das [Special Leave Petition (Civil) Diary No(s). 4941/2018] (Order Dated 03/07/2018):

The Hon'ble Court observed that for the interest of the State that there should be a comprehensive litigation policy in which the State of Rajasthan should also be able to

have the liability fixed on the persons who caused the delay and that appropriate steps should also be taken to avoid unnecessary delay. The Court directed the State to frame such a policy codifying all the instructions issued and incorporating the safeguards.

National Cooperative Development Corporation v. Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi-V [Civil Appeal Nos. 5105-5107 of 2009] (Para 49):

In this order, The Central Government and the State authorities repeatedly emphasised that they have evolved a litigation policy. Observing the issue in the

judgement *Union of India v. Pirthwi Singh* albeit between the Government and the private parties, where the question of law had been settled and yet the appeal was filed only to invite a dismissal. The objective of such litigation is that a certificate for dismissal is obtained from the highest court so that a *quietus* could be put to the matter in the Government Departments. The Court noted how wasteful these proceedings are of the judicial time and in various orders of this Court it has been categorised as 'certificate cases', i.e., the purpose of which is only to obtain this certificate of dismissal.



Conclusion

The research paper underscores several critical research gaps and areas for further exploration concerning the NLP in India. Firstly, while existing studies primarily focus on the impact of the NLP within specific contexts such as PIL, there is a pressing need for research that examines its effectiveness across diverse categories of government litigation. Furthermore, a shift towards analysing the long-term effects of the NLP on access to justice, governance, and social change is warranted, providing a more comprehensive understanding of its implications. Comparative analyses with litigation policies from other countries can offer invaluable insights into best practices and avenues for improvement within the Indian context. Additionally, deeper investigations into stakeholder perspectives and challenges are essential for crafting effective implementation strategies. This entails not only understanding the needs and hurdles faced by stakeholders but also evaluating the efficacy of enforcement mechanisms and exploring alternatives for enhanced compliance.

Addressing the digital divide is imperative to ensure equitable access to justice, particularly in remote areas and among underprivileged communities. Moreover, incorporating economic analysis into research efforts can shed light on the cost-effectiveness of the NLP and its broader impact on litigation efficiency. Looking ahead, research should anticipate and address emerging challenges such as climate change, cybercrime, and technological advancements. Concrete policy recommendations grounded in research findings can guide efforts to refine the NLP and bridge identified gaps. Furthermore, additional areas for exploration include the role of media in amplifying NLP initiatives, integrating alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to alleviate court congestion, and enhancing capacity building for stakeholders to meaningfully engage with the NLP framework. In essence, by addressing these research gaps and pursuing avenues for further exploration, policymakers and practitioners can enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and inclusivity of the National Litigation Policy, thereby advancing the cause of justice and governance in the country.

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