



SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110001 (INDIA)

Dr. Vikas Singh (Sr.)
President

Mr. Rahul Kaushik (Sr.)
Vice President

Ms. Pragya Baghel
Hony. Secretary

Mr. Meenesh Kumar Dubey
Joint Secretary

Mr. Vikrant Yadav
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Ms. Aparna Bhat (Sr.)

Mr. Dinesh Kr. Goswami (Sr.)

Mr. Anand Sanjay M. Nuli (Sr.)

Dr. Anindita Pujari (Sr.)

Mr. Ashok Panigrahi (Sr.)

Dr. Monika Gusain (Sr.)

23.06.2025

To,

Hon'ble Mr Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai
The Chief Justice of India
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi – 110001

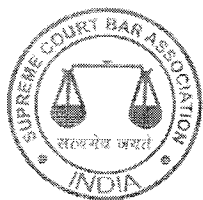
Subject: Request for Relocation of the National Judicial Museum and Archive to the Additional Building of the Supreme Court and Repurposing of Existing Space for Members of the Bar.

Dear Sir,

In light of the concerns raised in the earlier comprehensive letter dated 24th May, 2025, which outlined critical infrastructural challenges faced by members of the Bar, urgent intervention is respectfully sought to address a pressing issue that can be resolved during the ongoing court vacation to enhance the Supreme Court's functionality for lawyers, litigants, and the public.

In this context, a letter dated 6th November, 2024, was sent in my capacity as the three-term President of the SCBA, urging the former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (Retd.), to revoke the decision to convert the Judges' Library into the National Judicial Museum and Archive, and to cancel its scheduled inauguration on 7th November, 2024. I had emphasized that situating the museum within a high-security zone renders it unsuitable for public access, and that the decision was taken without any consultation with the Bar, which is an equal and essential stakeholder in this institution. The Supreme Court, built and maintained with public funds, is intended to serve all its stakeholders, including the legal fraternity, whose professional functioning directly contributes to the administration and delivery of justice.

We now respectfully reiterate our request for two interrelated measures, first, modifying or downgrading the security status of the Additional Building Area within the Appu Ghar Complex to align with that of the chambers outside the court area within the Supreme



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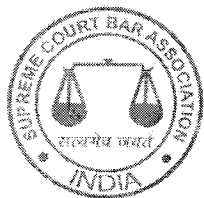
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Court campus and second, relocating the National Judicial Museum and Archive to vacant spaces in the Additional Building Area.

The Additional Building Complex was originally allotted to Appu Ghar. After the expiry of their lease, the land was reallocated to the Supreme Court for the purpose of constructing lawyers' chambers. When Appu Ghar was refusing to vacate the premises, it was the Supreme Court Bar Association who filed a petition before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. Pursuant to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, the premises were vacated by Appu Ghar and handed over to the Supreme Court. However, it is deeply ironic that only a small fraction of the constructed area has actually been utilized for lawyers' chambers. Even after the chambers were built, their allotment remained stalled for over three years, and it was only through your intervention, along with that of Justice Surya Kant, that the allotment process could finally be initiated. Chambers which are situated within the Supreme Court campus do not have the kind of high-security status that has been accorded to the entire Additional Building area. It was also through your efforts that the auditorium in the Additional Building Complex, an infrastructure meant for the entire Supreme Court, was made available for SCBA functions, having previously been withheld. Nevertheless, several other facilities such as meeting rooms, the auditorium, and other common areas, which rightfully ought to be accessible to the Bar, remain unavailable and underutilized, and should be considered for allocation in due course. A primary reason for the limited utilization of these facilities by Bar members is the arbitrary high-security status imposed on the Additional Building Complex, which restricts access and undermines its intended purpose.

The National Judicial Museum and Archive, situated in a high-security zone, remains largely inaccessible to the public due to stringent security protocols, rendering it unfit for its intended purpose. The space it occupies is ideally suited for creating soundproof chambers and cubicles, potentially across two floors given the structure's height, to facilitate virtual hearings and client consultations. Relocating the museum to vacant space in the Additional Building Area would enhance its accessibility to the public and allow the Bar to utilize the vacated space to meet its urgent professional requirements.



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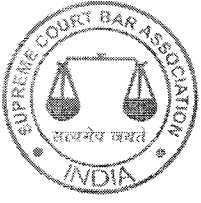
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The Registry has repeatedly cited the tunnels connecting the Additional Building Area to the main Supreme Court complex as justification for its high-security status. With due respect, such reasoning seems to lack merit. Security concerns can be effectively addressed by implementing robust access control measures at the tunnel entry points within the Supreme Court premises, rather than designating the entire Additional Building Area as a high-security zone. Revoking the high-security status in this area would significantly ease client access to the lawyers' chambers located there, which at present is highly restricted for clients. Furthermore, the high security status has posed significant challenges for Bar members, often affecting their access to important events such as the recent oath ceremony of the judges of this Hon'ble Court and various farewell functions. Advocates have had to endure long wait times, sometimes standing for hours, simply to proceed inside. These circumstances create an unnecessary barrier to the participation of the members. Reducing the level of security would allow easier access for members of the Bar, enabling their involvement without undue hardship or delay. This change would also eliminate unnecessary barriers for clients, the primary beneficiaries of this institution, enabling them to meet their lawyers without difficulty. Simultaneously, the vacated museum space can be repurposed to create chambers and cubicles for lawyers, facilitating virtual hearings across various courts and efficient client consultations.

The Bar is an integral part of this esteemed institution, and its needs and requirements are both legitimate and essential to the effective functioning of the judiciary. We respectfully urge consideration of the relocation of the National Judicial Museum and Archive to the Additional Building of the Supreme Court, allowing the existing space to be repurposed for building soundproof chambers and cubicles for the members of the Bar to meet their growing professional needs. Addressing this issue during the ongoing court vacation would demonstrate the judiciary's commitment to creating a functional and inclusive environment that supports not only legal practitioners but also the citizens they serve, would provide immediate relief to lawyers and litigants, and would significantly enhance public trust in the Supreme Court as an institution built on public resources and dedicated to serving all stakeholders.



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We are deeply grateful for the steadfast commitment shown to the justice delivery system and respectfully request that, under your esteemed leadership, due priority and attention be accorded to the welfare of the Bar.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,

[VIKAS SINGH]

CC to:

1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Supreme Court of India
2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikam Nath, Supreme Court of India
3. Mr. Shekhar Chudaram Munghate, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India