

Revamp district courts, directs SC

Separate washrooms for transgenders, 'court managers' with an MBA degree, Braille and colour-coded signage, crowd management arrangements, crèche facility and even a front desk for litigants to find their way, are some of the slew of improvements the Supreme Court wants district courts across the country to have.

In a 16-page order, a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud said infrastructure of district courts is on ventilator and needs saving.

The order came on a petition filed way back in 1989 by the All India Judges Association for better facilities to help do their job. "A sound infrastructure is the linchpin of a strong and stable judicial system," the apex court observed. It observed that "without a robust infrastructure, the judiciary would not be able to function at its optimum level."

New committee

The court ordered the State Chief Secretaries to constitute a committee of which the Secretary of the Department of Law should be a member to formulate the development plan for courts. The committee would invite an officer of the High Court, nominated by the Chief Justice of the court.

The apex court listed the case for August 23 to vet the status report and plans devised by the States to better the facilities in their respective district courts.

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