



Y.V.S.B.G. PARDHA SARADHI
REGISTRAR GENERAL

AMARAVATI
(Off):0863 2372613
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ROC No.616/SO/2026

Dated 01.07.2026

To

All the Unit Heads in Andhra Pradesh

Sir/Madam,



Sub: High Court of Andhra Pradesh – Request to furnish information with regard to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) – Information called for - Reg.

Ref: Letter dt:24.06.2026 of the Secretary to Government, Department of Women, Children, Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, A.P. Secretariat along with questionnaire.

Adverting to the subject and reference cited, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter in the reference cited and request you to furnish the requisite information as called for therein at the earliest for onward transmission of the same to the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru.

PNO-4458
4/7/26

Yours sincerely,

Y.V.S.B.G. Pardha Saradhi
REGISTRAR GENERAL

Check & Put up

03.

all the registrars to collect
information.
All Section
trough

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN, DIFFERENTLY ABLED &
SENIOR CITIZENS (PROG.II)**

Letter No. WDC01/3280771/2026/Prog.II/A1,

Dated:24-06-2026

From

The Secretary to Government,

Department for Women, Children, Differently Abled and Senior Citizens,

A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.

To

The Registrar,

Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh,

Amaravati.

Sir,



Sub:	Implementation of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 28.04.2026 in Civil Appeal No.11938 of 2016 & W.P.(C) No.116 of 1998 – Convening of Coordination Meeting with concerned officials on 29.06.2026 at 04.00 PM – Reg.
Ref:	1. Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 12.09.2025 in Civil Appeal No. 11938 of 2016 (Reena Banerjee & Anr. vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors.) read with W.P.(C) No. 116 of 1998. 2. G.O.Rt.No.05, Dept for WCDA&SC (Prog.II), dt.08.01.2026 3. Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.04.2026 in Civil Appeal No. 11938 of 2016 (Reena Banerjee & Anr. vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors.) read with W.P.(C) No. 116 of 1998. 4. Request of the team Project Ability Empowerment, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

The attention is invited to the subject and references cited.

2. It is informed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its judgment dated 12.09.2025, issued comprehensive directions to the Union of India, all State Governments and Union Territories for the effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and for safeguarding the rights, dignity, accessibility and community integration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), particularly persons with cognitive disabilities residing in State-run and private care institutions.

3. The Hon'ble Court expressed serious concern over the continued non-compliance with statutory mandates relating to accessibility, reservation, institutional care, documentation and monitoring mechanisms. The Hon'ble Court emphasized that accessibility and reasonable accommodation are integral

components of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India and that the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 shall be implemented in both letter and spirit.

4. The Hon'ble Court further directed the designation of a Nodal Officer, not below the rank of Secretary, by the Chief Secretary of each State/Union Territory to coordinate and supervise compliance measures. The Court also designated the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, under "Project Ability Empowerment", to monitor implementation in the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

5. Accordingly, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government, vide reference 2nd cited, nominated the Principal Secretary/Secretary to Government, Department of Women, Children, Differently Aabled and Senior Citizens, Government of Andhra Pradesh, as the Nodal Officer to liaise with the monitoring institutions and the Advisory Group Expert Panel.

6. In this connection, the first and second meetings were conducted on 02.02.2026 and 26.05.2026 respectively with the concerned departments to discuss the action points arising from the aforesaid judgment, particularly those relating to monitoring under "Project Ability Empowerment".

7. In continuation thereof, the Project Ability Empowerment Team, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, vide reference 4th cited, has requested that a virtual meeting be convened with the following officials.

- i. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
- ii. Registrar General of the High Court
- iii. Director General of Police (Prisons)
- iv. Director General of Police (State)
- v. State Election Commission

8. The Team has also shared a PowerPoint presentation containing the research design of the project along with draft questionnaires. It has informed that these questionnaires are being shared at this stage only for the information of the concerned authorities and will subsequently be circulated through an accessible Google Form to facilitate easy completion by all stakeholders.

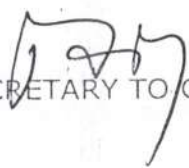
9. In this regard, a Coordination Meeting with the above authorities is proposed to be convened through virtual mode on 29.06.2026 at 04.00 PM.

10. Therefore, you are requested to kindly issue necessary instructions to the concerned officer(s)/officials to participate in the said virtual meeting scheduled on 29.06.2026 at 04.00 PM and furnish the relevant information/material required by

the Project Ability Empowerment Team, National Law School of India University,
Bengaluru.

- Encl:**
1. Judgments dated 12.09.2025 & 28.04.2026
 2. G.O.Rt.No.05, Dept. for WCDA&SC (Prog.II), dt.08.01.2026
 3. PowerPoint presentation and draft questionnaires

Yours faithfully,


FOR SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To,

The Hon'ble Registrar General of High Court

Andhra Pradesh

Respected Sir

We hope this communication finds you well.

We write to you on behalf of *Project Ability Empowerment*, an initiative to monitor and strengthen systems of care, rehabilitation and rights-based support for persons with cognitive and psychosocial disabilities throughout the nation, by order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The project draws its mandate and direction from proceedings and observations emerging from the matter of *Reena Banerjee v. Government of NCT of Delhi*, and seeks to generate robust, field-based insights into institutional practices, decision-making processes, and pathways relating to admission, care, and community-based transitions. The scope of the study includes engagement with key stakeholders across justice, administrative, and law enforcement systems, with the objective of informing policy, improving institutional accountability, and advancing rights-based frameworks. The Hon'ble Court has distributed responsibility across eight National Law Universities, each covering specific States/Union Territories. The National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru has been assigned the following States and Union Territories: **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep**. For the purposes of this study, the Government of each State has appointed a Nodal Officer, by order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In this regard, we request your cooperation in facilitating the administration of a structured survey instrument among relevant personnel within your jurisdiction. Principal District Judge, 2 Additional District Judges, 3 Magistrates in urban areas and 2 Magistrates in rural areas of each district within the State of Andhra Pradesh as part of the study are kindly requested to fill up the responses. May we request you to kindly ask Principal District Judges of district to identify 2 ADJs and 5JMFCs within his/her Jurisdiction for this purpose. Besides your office is also kindly requested to fill the dedicated questionnaire.

The data collected will be compiled and analyzed solely for the purposes of this study.

We wish to assure you that all information shared will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity, in strict compliance with the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. No personally identifiable or institution-specific information will be disclosed without due authorization.

This work is being undertaken with the support and guidance of the respected Nodal Officer, A Surya Kumari IAS, and we remain committed to ensuring that all engagement is conducted with due regard to institutional protocols and sensitivities.

Requests:

Survey administration with:

- Principal District Judge
- 2 Additional District Judges
- 3 Magistrates in urban areas
- 2 Magistrates in rural areas from each district

2. Filling up of dedicated questionnaire by your office.

Either the PDJ of each district can email us the filled-in Survey responses directly to us. Or your office may consolidate and send us the survey responses from all the DCPs.

Please let us know if you have any questions that we can assist with.

For your reference, we have attached with this communication:

1. The directions laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court informing this initiative (Highlighted section)
2. The survey questionnaires to be filled by Judges
3. The survey questionnaires to be filled by Registrar General

Email id as follows:

ability.empowerment@nls.ac.in

For any questions, they can reach out to us at:

Nikhil: +91 6281691003

Soniya: +91 8297137155

Elizabeth: +91 9746131441

The Project Director, Prof. Sanjay Jain is also available for any clarification: 9422391719

We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration, and look forward to your support in enabling this important effort.

Yours Faithfully,

Team Project Ability Empowerment – NLSIU

Questionnaire for the Office of Registrar General

As per the recent Supreme Court order, dated 28 April 2026, the Hon'ble Court has directed the 8 NLUs appointed to Project Ability Empowerment to evaluate the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 in the jurisdictions that fall within their purview. It is in accordance with this recent direction from the Hon'ble Court, that we request the following critical information.

This questionnaire seeks information regarding accessibility measures, employment of persons with disabilities, and implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, within the High Court and courts falling within its jurisdiction.

Please Read:

- Please fill the questionnaire to the best of your knowledge and ability. This exercise is distinct from routine inspections or compliance-based reviews. The purpose is not to evaluate or embarrass institutions, but to engage constructively with organisations working in the field, understand existing practices, and identify pathways to strengthen systems of care, rights protection, and community-based support for persons with disabilities.
- We request the following personnel to fill in responses: Principal District Judges of every District, 2 Additional District Judges, 3 Magistrates in urban areas and 2 Magistrates in rural areas of each district.
- Information shared is confidential and at all times available only with the Project Ability Empowerment Team at NLS. All data collected will be processed in accordance with ethical protocols governing the project and the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.
- Information provided and data shared will only ever be used for the purpose of complying with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dt. 12.09.2025 in Reena Banerjee & Anr v Government of NCT & Ors 2025 INSC 1101.

A. Constitution and Functioning of Accessibility Committees

1. Has the High Court constituted an Accessibility Committee?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If yes, please provide the following details regarding the Committee:

a. Date of constitution: _____

b. Composition/Members of the Committee:

c. Terms of reference/mandate of the Committee:

3. How many meetings of the Accessibility Committee have been held since its constitution?

4. Please provide details of:

a. Key recommendations made by the Committee

b. Action taken on such recommendations.

5. Please provide the number of District Courts falling within the jurisdiction of the High Court, that have constituted Accessibility Committees:

B. Employment of Persons with Disabilities

6. Please provide the court-wise percentage of employees with disabilities in the High Court and courts falling within its jurisdiction. *(Please add rows as necessary)*

Court Name	Total Employees	Employees with Disabilities	Percentage

7. Whether persons with disabilities employed in the High Court and subordinate courts have been provided any training or capacity-building programmes to enhance their skills, particularly for those working in the IT departments of the courts?

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. If yes, please provide the following details: *(Please add rows as necessary)*

Nature of Training	Number of Employees Trained	Department/Unit

9. Does the High Court implement reservation policies in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the directions and orders of the Supreme Court of India in relation to:

Category	Yes	No
Appointment of Judges in Courts falling within its jurisdiction	☐	☐
Appointment of other staff in the High Court and subordinate courts	☐	☐

10. If yes, please specify the relevant rules, notifications, circulars, or policies governing such reservation:

11. Please provide the percentage of Judges with disabilities in the High Court and courts falling within its jurisdiction.

Category	Total Number	Number of Persons with Disabilities	Percentage
Judges			

12. Please provide the percentage of staff with disabilities in the High Court and courts falling within its jurisdiction.

Category	Total Number	Number of Persons with Disabilities	Percentage
Staff			

13. Please provide details regarding employees with psychosocial disabilities:

Category	Number	Percentage
Employees with psychosocial disabilities as a proportion of employees with disabilities		
Employees with psychosocial disabilities as a proportion of total number of employees (both disabled and otherwise)		

C. Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

14. Please indicate whether the High Court and courts falling within its jurisdiction have implemented the following provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:

Provision	Implemented (Yes/No)	Details/Measures Taken
Section 3(5) – Reasonable Accommodation		
Section 20 – Non-discrimination in		

Employment		
Section 21 – Equal Opportunity Policy		
Section 22 – Maintenance of Records		
Section 23 – Appointment of Grievance Redressal Officer		
Section 33 – Identification of Posts for Reservation		a) Number of posts identified for persons with disabilities:
Section 34 – Reservation		a) Percentage of reservation for persons with disabilities for the post of Judge: b) Percentage of reservation for persons with disabilities for other staff posts:
		a) Relevant entries in the list of identified jobs of the state in respect of the Judges: b) Relevant entries in the list of identified jobs of the state in respect of the staff:

15. Have Special Public Prosecutors under Section 85 of the RPwD Act been appointed in the State?

☐ Yes ☐ No

16. Whether Special Courts relating to disability matters have been designated or established in the State under Section 84?

☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Please fill in the following data:

Total number of courts established	
Number of Courts actively functioning as a proportion of the total number of courts established	

18. Whether these Courts are properly publicized and are they accessible?

☐ Yes ☐ No

19. Please fill the following information for 2020-2025:

Year	Number of cases filed in these courts	Number of cases decided by these courts	Number of cases pending in these courts
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			

20. Whether High Court and District Courts have assigned priority to the cases filed by persons with disabilities and to the recording of testimony by disabled witnesses?

☐ Yes ☐ No

You are kindly requested to add any documentation in support of the data shared.

May we request you to kindly appoint a contact person for continuous follow-up so that we may not bother you for routine matters.

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 28 April 2026, the appointed National Law Schools have to submit a Status Report in respect of all the allocated states on or before 22 September 2026.

You are therefore kindly requested to provide the aforementioned information within 3 weeks of date of receipt, so that we may analyze and process the data and do the needful.

Thanking you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours Faithfully

Team Project Ability Empowerment – NLSIU

Questionnaire for Judicial Magistrates

Please Read:

- Please fill the questionnaire to the best of your knowledge and ability.
 - This exercise follows from the order dated 12.09.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Reena Banerjee & Anr. v. Government of NCT of Delhi & Ors., 2025 INSC 1101. It is distinct from routine inspections or compliance-based reviews. The purpose is not to evaluate or embarrass institutions, but to engage constructively with organisations working in the field, understand existing practices, and identify pathways to strengthen systems of care, rights protection, and community-based support for persons with disabilities.
 - Information shared is confidential and at all times available only with the Project Ability Empowerment Team at NLS. All data collected will be processed in accordance with ethical protocols governing the project and the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.
 - Information provided and data shared will only ever be used for the purpose of complying with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dt. 12.09.2025 in Reena Banerjee & Anr. v. Government of NCT of Delhi & Ors., 2025 INSC 1101.
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1. Legal Awareness and Training

1.1 Have you received any formal training regarding RPwD Act 2016, Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and handling cases falling under these laws?

☐ Yes ☐ No

1.2 Do you consider current training to be adequate for handling such cases effectively?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Identification and Judicial Assessment

2.1 During proceedings, do you assess whether an accused, victim, or witness has a disability or mental illness requiring support?

☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

2.2 What indicators do you rely on for such identification? *(You may select more than one)*

☐ Medical reports

- ☐ Behavioural observation
- ☐ Lawyer/guardian submission

☐ Self-disclosure

☐ Jail/police records

3. Access to Justice and Reasonable Accommodation

3.1 Do you ensure reasonable accommodation (interpreters, assistive devices, simplified communication) in court proceedings?

☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

3.2 Are court proceedings made accessible for persons with disabilities (physical or communication barriers removed)?

☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No

3.3 Do you give priority to cases involving persons with disability and mental illness?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3.4 If yes, in your career, how many such cases have you prioritized over other matters?

- Less than 10
- More than 10
- NA

3.5 Do you have a protocol and procedure to implement Section 7 of the RPwD Act?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please attach the protocol or guideline document here.

3.6 On how many occasions, have you implemented Section 7 of the RPwD Act?

- Less than 10
- More than 10
- NA

3.7 Please add additional comments, if any:

4. Mental Health Law Compliance

4.1 Have you adjudicated matters involving persons with cognitive and psychosocial disabilities?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

4.2 Have you recorded evidence from a person with psychosocial disability as a witness?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

4.3 If yes to the above question, in how many instances have you recorded evidence from a person with psychosocial disability as a witness?

☐ Less than 10

☐ More than 10

☐ NA

4.4 Have you referred persons with psychosocial disabilities to a mental health establishment?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

4.5 If yes to the above question, how many cases have you referred to a mental health establishment so far?

- Less than 10
- More than 10
- NA

4.6 Do you verify that admission or detention orders are medically and legally justified?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Rights, Dignity and Non-Discrimination

5.1 Do you take steps to prevent stigma or prejudicial treatment during hearings of persons with disabilities and mental illness?

☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

5.2 What measures do you typically adopt to ensure fair and just treatment of persons with disabilities or mental illness during court proceedings? *(You may select more than one option)*

☐ Providing reasonable accommodation (interpreters, assistive communication, simplified language)

- ☐ Seeking medical/psychological expert opinion
- ☐ Allowing support person or guardian during proceedings
- ☐ Modifying court procedures (adjournments, flexible scheduling, etc.)
- ☐ Ensuring police/jail compliance with rights protections
- ☐ No specific measures taken
- ☐ Other

5.3 Do you have access to medical, psychiatric, or child protection experts for court assistance when needed?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5.4 Do you have any protocols or guidelines to ensure dignity of persons with intellectual disability or persons with mental illness and to protect them from unfair treatment during inquiry?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5.5 Do you consider transgender identity as a category of mental illness under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Documentation and Case Management

6.1 Do you ensure proper documentation of accommodation measures provided during trials?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6.2 Are cases involving vulnerable groups (Women with intellectual disability, Men with intellectual disability, Children with intellectual disability, Old persons with mental illness) tracked for compliance and review?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6.3 Do you actively consider rehabilitation and reintegration measures while passing orders in such cases?

- ☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

6.4 Please add additional comments, if any:

District Court, Vizianagaram,
Date : **.07.2026.**

Hon'ble High Court's letter in ROC No.616/SO/2026, Dt. 01.07.2026 enclosing letter No.WDCO1/3280771/2026/Prog.II/A1, Dt. 24.06.2026 of Government of AP, Department for women, children, differently Abled and Senior Citizens (PROG.II), along with enclosures (Questionnaire for the office of Registrar General , Questionnaire for the Judicial Magistrates) is herewith communicated with direction to submit information in the proforma as called for the Hon'ble High Court of AP to the District Court by 24.07.2026, to enable to the District Court to submit the same to the Hon'ble High Court of AP.

This may be treated as Urgent.

True Copy / By Order


Chief Administrative Officer,
District Court, Vizianagara

Sd/ M. Babitha
**Principal District Judge,
Vizianagaram.**

Copy to :

The System officer, e-Courts Project, District Court, Vizianagaram, with a direction to send the copy of the same **to all the Judicial Officers relating to Vizianagaram District Judiciary, through their respective official mails** and to upload the same in District Court website vizianagaram.dcourts.gov.in and also place the same in the **group of Chief Ministerial Officers** of Vizianagaram Judicial District.

.Dis.No.3061 Date: 17.07.2026.