



PRINCIPAL DISTRICT COURT,

WEST GODAVARI, ELURU,

DATE: 21.11.2024

**O.P. CELL/23/2024**

**C I R C U L A R**

Sub: District Judiciary - Judgment Smruti Tukaram Badade, V. State of Maharashtra - Vulnerable witnesses examination - Directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court - Instructions of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh - Information - Regarding.

- Ref:-
1. Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment of Smruti Tukaram Badade, V. State of Maharashtra dated 11.01.2022.
  2. Hon'ble High Court's Letter in ROC.No81/SO/2020 dt.24.10.2024.
  3. Hon'ble High Court's Letter in ROC.No81/SO/2020 dt.18.11.2024.

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**C I R C U L A R : : D A T E D : : 21.11.2024**

Adverting to the subject and reference cited, Hon'ble Supreme Court in Smruti Badade, V. State of Maharashtra's case, pleased to issue directions of examining witnesses who are vulnerable by establishing VWD Centers.

Pursuant to the directions, at District Court Complex, Eluru, District Legal Services Authority is identifying as the place for VWD Center.

Hon'ble High Court under the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, has called for information with regard to VWD Centers in Mofusil courts.

It is to inform that Hon'ble Supreme Court defined vulnerable witnesses as follows:

(i) The definition of "vulnerable witness" contained in Clause 3(a) of the 'Guidelines for recording evidence of vulnerable witnesses in criminal matters' 4 of the High Court of Delhi shall not be limited only to child witnesses who have attained the age of 18 years and should be expanded to include, inter alia, the following categories of vulnerable witnesses:

- (a) Age neutral victims of sexual assault read with Sections 273 and 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860;
- (b) Gender neutral victims of sexual assault read with Section 2(d) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012;
- (c) Age and gender neutral victims of sexual assault under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860;
- (d) Witnesses suffering from "mental illness" as defined under Section 2(s) of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 read with Section 118 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872;
- (e) Any witness deemed to have a threat perception under the Witness Protection Scheme 2018 of the Union Government as approved by the Court;
- (f) Any speech or hearing impaired individual or a person suffering from any other disability who is considered to be a vulnerable witness by the competent court;
- (g) Any other witness deemed to be vulnerable by the concerned court.

In view of the above observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court expanding the scope of vulnerable witnesses from the child to the above categories, the Judicial Officers are hereby requested to consider the above as Vulnerable Witnesses to record evidence through VWD Centers if required. The courts may consider the age of the witness who has difficulty

to hear as a vulnerable witness and examine following the procedure contemplated under the Judgment.

The Judicial Officers who are dealing with MACT cases in appropriate cases of injuries may consider the concerned claimant as vulnerable witness and may consider the examination done under the vulnerable witnesses' guidelines.

Hence, all the Judicial Officers are hereby directed to consider that, whenever the data relating to vulnerable witnesses examination is called for, they shall keep in mind of the above judgment record and treat the persons as vulnerable and if examined as witnesses shall forward the data as evidence of vulnerable witnesses.

*C. Purnanandam*  
PRL. DISTRICT JUDGE,  
W.G., ELURU.

**Encl:**

Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment of Smruti Tukaram Badade, V. State of Maharashtra dated 11.01.2022.

**To**

1. All the Judicial Officers in the Unit.
2. The Chairman, PLAPUS, Eluru.
3. The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Eluru
4. The Superintendents, Establishment Section, Accounts Section and P.Tr Section, Principal District Court, Eluru.
5. The In-charge System Officer, eCourts, Principal District Court, Eluru, with a direction to upload the same in the website of Principal District Court and send mails to all the Courts and Officers.
6. The Superintendents, Establishment Section, Accounts Section, Central Nazarath, Central Record Room and Copyist Establishment, District Court, West Godavari, Eluru.

*Dis No: 757A*  
*21/1/24*

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**Miscellaneous Application No 1852 of 2019 in  
Criminal Appeal No 1101 of 2019**

**Smruti Tukaram Badade**

**.... Appellant(s)**

**Versus**

**State of Maharashtra & Anr**

**....Respondent(s)**

**J U D G M E N T**

**Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, J**

1 The need for and importance of setting up facilities which cater to the need for creating a safe and barrier free environment for recording the evidence of vulnerable witnesses has engaged the attention of this Court over two decades. In **Sakshi v Union of India**<sup>1</sup>, this Court issued directions in addition to those which were contained in the decision in **State of Punjab v Gurmit Singh**<sup>2</sup>. The relevant extract from the decision in **Sakshi** (supra) reads thus:

“34. [...]

- (1) The provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 327 CrPC shall, in addition to the offences mentioned in the sub-section, also apply in inquiry or trial of offences under Sections 354 and 377 IPC.
- (2) In holding trial of child sex abuse or rape:

1 (2004) 5 SCC 518

2 (1996) 2 SCC 384

- (i) a screen or some such arrangements may be made where the victim or witnesses (who may be equally vulnerable like the victim) do not see the body or face of the accused;
- (ii) the questions put in cross-examination on behalf of the accused, insofar as they relate directly to the incident, should be given in writing to the presiding officer of the court who may put them to the victim or witnesses in a language which is clear and is not embarrassing;
- (iii) the victim of child abuse or rape, while giving testimony in court, should be allowed sufficient breaks as and when required."

2 More recently, in **State of Maharashtra v Bandu @ Daulat**<sup>3</sup>, directions were issued by this Court for setting up "special centres for examination of vulnerable witnesses" in criminal cases so as to facilitate a conducive environment for recording the statements of vulnerable witnesses. This Court dwelt on the guidelines which have been issued by the High Court of Delhi for recording the evidence of vulnerable witnesses in criminal matters and noted that special centres have been set up in Delhi for that purpose. While observing that the direction of the High Court of Delhi for setting up special centres for vulnerable witnesses is consistent with the earlier decisions of this Court and supplement the principles which have been laid down, this Court issued the following directions:

"12. [...] all High Courts can adopt such guidelines if the same have not yet been adopted with such modifications as may be deemed necessary. Setting up of one centre for vulnerable witnesses may be perhaps required almost in every district in the country. All the High Courts may take appropriate steps in this direction in due course in phases. At least two such centres in the jurisdiction of each High Court may be set up within three months from today. Thereafter, more such centres may be set up as per decision of the High Courts."

3 The fairness of the process of trial as well as the pursuit of substantive justice are determined in a significant measure by the manner in which statements of vulnerable witnesses are recorded. The dignity of person, which is an intrinsic

element of Article 21 of the Constitution, cannot be left to the vagaries of insensitive procedures and a hostile environment. Access to justice mandates that positive steps have to be adopted to create a barrier free environment. These barriers are not only those which exist within the physical spaces of conventional courts but those which operate on the minds and personality of vulnerable witnesses. There is a pressing need to facilitate the salutary purpose underlying the creation of a barrier free environment where depositions can be recorded freely without constraining limitations, both physical and emotional. This requires not just the creation of infrastructure but sensitizing all stakeholders.

4 This Court issued notice to all the High Courts in pursuance of which they have appeared through Counsel. Based on the material which has been placed before the Court, Ms Vibha Datta Makhija, *amicus curiae*, has prepared a tabulated statement of the position of infrastructure in various High Courts as of 25 October 2021. A copy of the tabulated statement is annexed as a broad indicator at Annexure 'A' to this order. Based on the deliberations which have taken place during the course of proceedings in the Court, the suggestions which have been proposed by the *amicus curiae* and the responses of some of the Counsel who have appeared on behalf of the High Courts, the following directions are issued under Article 142 of the Constitution in furtherance of the earlier decisions of this Court. These are intended to facilitate the implementation of the directions which were rendered on 24 October 2017 in **Bandu** (*supra*) and earlier in other decisions.

5 The directions are enumerated below:

- (i) The definition of "vulnerable witness" contained in Clause 3(a) of the 'Guidelines for recording evidence of vulnerable witnesses in criminal

matters<sup>4</sup> of the High Court of Delhi shall not be limited only to child witnesses who have attained the age of 18 years and should be expanded to include, *inter alia*, the following categories of vulnerable witnesses:

- (a) Age neutral victims of sexual assault read with Sections 273 and 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code 1860<sup>5</sup>;
- (b) Gender neutral victims of sexual assault read with Section 2(d) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012;
- (c) Age and gender neutral victims of sexual assault under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code 1860 read with paragraph 34(1) of the decision in **Sakshi** (*supra*);
- (d) Witnesses suffering from “mental illness” as defined under Section 2(s) of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 read with Section 118 of the Indian Evidence Act 1872;
- (e) Any witness deemed to have a threat perception under the Witness Protection Scheme 2018 of the Union Government as approved by this Court in **Mahender Chawla v Union of India**<sup>6</sup>;
- (f) Any speech or hearing impaired individual or a person suffering from any other disability who is considered to be a vulnerable witness by the competent court; and

4 “VWDC Scheme” available at  
[http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/writereaddata/upload/notification/notificationfile\\_lcwcd2x4.pdf](http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/writereaddata/upload/notification/notificationfile_lcwcd2x4.pdf).  
 5 “IPC”  
 6 (2019) 14 SCC 615

- (g) Any other witness deemed to be vulnerable by the concerned court.
- (ii) The High Courts shall adopt and notify a Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centres<sup>7</sup> Scheme within a period of two months from the date of this order unless a scheme is already notified. The High Courts which already have existing VWDC Schemes in place may consider making suitable modifications in conformity with the guidelines which are indicated in the present order. In formulating the VWDC Scheme, the High Courts shall have due regard to the scheme which has been formulated by the High Court of Delhi, which has been duly approved in the judgment of this Court in **Bandu** (supra);
- (iii) Every High Court should set up an in-house permanent VWDC Committee for continuously supervising the implementation of the present directions and making a periodic assessment of the number of VWDCs required in each district proportionate to the time required for recording evidence of vulnerable witnesses and to coordinate the conduct of periodic training programmes;
- (iv) Every High Court is requested to make an estimation of costs towards manpower and infrastructure required to set up at least one permanent VWDC in every establishment of the District Court (or additional Sessions Court establishments) and estimate the optimal number of VWDCs required for the entire State within a period of three months;
- (v) Having due regard to the importance of conducting periodic training programmes for manning and managing the VWDCs and sensitizing all stake
- “VWDC”



holders, including judicial officers, members of the Bar and the staff of the court establishment, we constitute a Committee chaired by Justice Ms Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. The Committee shall devise and implement an All India VWDC Training Programme, besides engaging with the High Courts on the creation of infrastructure for VWDCs. The initial tenure of the Chairperson shall be for a period of two years. All High Courts or concerned role assignees shall facilitate and give full cooperation in conducting training programmes in terms of the module which may be prepared by the Chairperson;

- (vi) Upon the estimation of costs prepared by the VWDC Committee of each High Court, the State Government shall expeditiously sanction the requisite funds within a period of three months from the date of the submission of the proposal or the end of the financial year, whichever is earlier, and disburse the funds to the High Court in accordance with the project plan. The State Government shall nominate a nodal officer of the Finance Department who shall be associated *ex officio* with the work of the VWDC Committee of the High Court, to facilitate the implementation of the proposal submitted by the High Court in terms of these directions;
- (vii) The High Courts shall ensure that at least one permanent VWDC is set up in every District Court establishment (or additional Sessions Court establishments) within a period of four months. The Registrars General of the High Courts shall file compliance reports before this Court;
- (viii) In many States, ADR Centres have been set up by the High Courts in close proximity to the court establishments in the districts. Where such ADR Centres are in place, the High Courts would be at liberty to ensure that the VWDC is

made available within the premises of the ADR Centre so as to secure a safe, conducive and barrier free environment for recording the depositions of vulnerable witnesses;

- (ix) The National Legal Services Authority<sup>8</sup> as well as the State Legal Services Authorities<sup>9</sup> have a vital stake and role, particularly in devising and implementing sensitization and training programmes. The Chairperson of the Committee appointed by this Court is requested to engage with NALSA and SLSAs (subject to the directions which may be issued by the Hon'ble Executive Chairperson of NALSA) so as to provide an effective interface for implementing the scheme for training;
- (x) The Hon'ble Chief Justices of the High Courts would be at liberty to take all appropriate steps either on the administrative side or on the judicial side in furtherance of the present directions and to monitor compliance on a periodic basis;
- (xi) The Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi is requested to make available a work space/room for the office of the VDWC Committee Training Centre and requisite staff, preferably personnel who have previously assisted in the development and implementation of the Training Modules of the Delhi High Court and to designate a Coordinator of the programme in consultation with the Chairperson. Appropriate secretarial and logistical support staff and equipment may be made available to the Committee on a reasonable remuneration as fixed by the Chairperson. The expenses in that regard, including the honorarium payable to the Chairperson shall be defrayed by

the Ministry of Women and Child Development to the Director of the Delhi Judicial Academy. The Chairperson may fix a reasonable honorarium for the work assigned to her under the terms of this order. In the event that any further directions are necessary, the Chairperson may seek them before this Court and any communication in that regard shall be placed for further directions; and

- (xii) The Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Union Government shall designate a nodal officer for coordinating the implementation of these directions and for providing all logistical support to Justice Ms Gita Mittal, the Chairperson of the Committee appointed by this Court. This would include the payment of honorarium to the Chairperson in terms as fixed by the Chairperson and meeting the expenses, including those towards engaging domain experts for training programmes. The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and all Ministries of Women and Child Development in the States shall coordinate with the Chairperson and extend logistical support. The High Courts shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, enlist experts in the field to facilitate proper training and development of all stake holders.

6 A copy of this order shall be forwarded by the Secretary General of this Court to the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Union Government and to the Secretaries of the Ministries of Women and Child Development of all the State Governments for compliance. A copy of this order shall also be emailed to Justice Ms Gita Mittal for information and also to the Registrars General of all the High Courts for implementation by the High Courts.

7 We conclude by recording our appreciation of the dedicated effort of the *amicus*

*curiae.*

- 8 The Miscellaneous Application is accordingly disposed of.
- 9 Pending application, if any, stands disposed of.

.....J.  
[Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud]

.....J.  
[Surya Kant]

New Delhi;  
January 11, 2022  
-S-

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
M.A. No. 1852 of 2019  
IN  
Crl. App. No. 1101 of 2019

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Smruti Tukaram Badade

.....Petitioner

Versus

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.....Respondents

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S.No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Status Report Submitted by Vibha Datta Makhija, Senior Advocate on Reports from various High Courts in compliance of order dated 4.10.2019 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for the establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDC) for hearing on 25.10.2021.	1-15

Dated: 25.10.2021

**Smruti Tukaram Badade v. State of Maharashtra & Anr.**  
M.A. No. 1852 of 2019 in CrI. App. No. 1101 of 2019

**Reports from various High Courts in compliance of order dated 4.10.2019 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for the establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDC).**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **24 out of 25 High Courts have submitted status reports regarding establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers. Report from Manipur High Court has not been filed as per office report dated 25.10.2021.**
- In 15 out of 25 High Courts, at least 1 Permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre has been established. In 9 remaining High Courts, not even 1 Permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre has been established.
- Delhi has established at least 1 Permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre in all its functional District Courts. Delhi High Court has also formulated guidelines for recording of evidence of vulnerable witnesses in criminal matters. This has been adopted by other High Courts as well.
- Maharashtra has the most number of Permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers in its District and Subordinate Courts.

S.No . / Ranking	Concerned High Court	Date of Status Report	Number of vulnerable witness depositions centers established - permanent	Number of vulnerable witness depositions centers – temporary/ insufficient infrastructure	GUIDELINES	Status of compliance regarding establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts	Financial Status/Funds Requested																
1.	<b>Bombay High Court</b> [Pg. No. 5-10A  [No. of District Courts =33 ]	6.9.2019	<b>116</b> [INCLUDING AT SUBORDINATE COURTS]	NIL	AS PER THE DIRECTIONS IN CRL. APPEAL NO. 1101 OF 2019, NOTICE WAS ISSUED BY THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT TO THE REGISTRAR	<p><b><u>WORK COMPLETED FOR 116 VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COURTS IN THE STATE</u></b></p> <p>• <i>Status of establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts as on 1.8.2019</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No.</th> <th>Particulars</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Grand Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Work Completed</td> <td>115+1</td> <td>116</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Work in Progress</td> <td>72</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Tender Stage</td> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No.	Particulars	Total	Grand Total	1.	Work Completed	115+1	116	2.	Work in Progress	72	72	3.	Tender Stage	9	9	DIFFERENT DISTRICTS HAVE FORWARDED THEIR FUND REQUIREMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASH
S.No.	Particulars	Total	Grand Total																				
1.	Work Completed	115+1	116																				
2.	Work in Progress	72	72																				
3.	Tender Stage	9	9																				

					GENERAL TO ESTABLISH VWDCS.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Estimate Stage</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>203</td> <td>203</td> </tr> </table> <p>• <i>Proposal for construction of a new Court building</i> with the provision of a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court is <i>pending at Thane Headquarters.</i></p> <p><b><u>82 FUNCTIONAL VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 227</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">No. of Places</th> <th colspan="4">Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre</th> <th colspan="2">On way glass to witness box</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Functional</th> <th colspan="2">Work in Progress</th> <th rowspan="2">Functional</th> <th rowspan="2">Work in Progress</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>With full-fledged facilities</td> <td>With partial facilities</td> <td>With full-fledged facilities</td> <td>With partial facilities</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>227</td> <td>33</td> <td>49</td> <td>32</td> <td>31</td> <td>49</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4.	Estimate Stage	6	6		Total	203	203	No. of Places	Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre				On way glass to witness box		Functional		Work in Progress		Functional	Work in Progress		With full-fledged facilities	With partial facilities	With full-fledged facilities	With partial facilities			227	33	49	32	31	49	23	TRA. SOME DISTRICTS HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING AND IT IS PENDING FOR OTHERS.
4.	Estimate Stage	6	6																																							
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227	33	49	32	31	49	23																																				
2.	<b>Rajasthan High Court</b> [Pg. No. 43-52  [No. of District Courts = 36]	09.01.2020	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>TOTAL DISTRICTS = 35</u></b> <b><u>CENTERS PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED = 24 DISTRICTS</u></b> <b><u>CENTERS TEMPORARILY ESTABLISHED = 10 DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <p>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts/Centers set up in the Court premises in 24 Districts</i> – Ajmer, Balotra, Baran, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Dausa, Dholpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur District, Jaipur Metropolitan, Jodhpur District, Jodhpur Metropolitan, Karauli, Merta, Pali, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk and Udaipur</p>	SOME DISTRICTS HAVE ASKED FOR FUNDS FOR MAKING THE CENTRES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY TEMPORARILY INTO																																			

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Temporary arrangements for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts made in 10 Districts</b> - Alwar, Banswara, Bharatpur, Churu, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhalwar, Kota, Pratapgarh and Rajsamand. <i>No Centre established</i> - Dungarpur</li> </ul>	PERMANENT. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON GRANT OF FUNDS.																	
3.	<b>Gujarat High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 9  [No. of District Courts = 34]	05.02.2020	<b>24</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<p><b><u>24 VULNERABLE DEPOSITION CENTERS FUNCTIONAL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In 33 Judicial districts, vulnerable deposition centers have been planned.</b></li> <li>• <b>7 district deposition centers are ready for inauguration</b> by the end of February 2020.</li> <li>• <b>2 districts Mahisagar and Narmada</b>, new building for district and sessions court is under construction and vulnerable deposition centers under construction in newly constructed court buildings.</li> </ul>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE																	
4.	<b>Delhi High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 2  No. of District Courts = 6]	20.01.2020	<b>10</b>	<b>NIL</b>	DELHI HIGH COURT HAVE CREATED THEIR OWN GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING OF EVIDENCE OF VULNERABLE WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.	<p><b><u>6 COURT COMPLEXES VULNERABLE DEPOSITION CENTRES ARE ESTABLISHED – TOTAL 10 WITNESS DEPOSITION COURTOOMS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rouse Avenue District Court – vulnerable witness deposition centre is not established because at present, only CBI and Labour court are functioning.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No</th> <th>Court Complex</th> <th>District</th> <th>No. of vulnerable witness deposition courtrooms established</th> <th>No. of vulnerable witness deposition courtrooms to be established</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">1.</td> <td rowspan="2">Tis Hazari</td> <td>Central</td> <td>1</td> <td rowspan="2">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> <td>East</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No	Court Complex	District	No. of vulnerable witness deposition courtrooms established	No. of vulnerable witness deposition courtrooms to be established	1.	Tis Hazari	Central	1	3	West	0	2.		East	2	6	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
S.No	Court Complex	District	No. of vulnerable witness deposition courtrooms established	No. of vulnerable witness deposition courtrooms to be established																				
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	[No. of District Courts = 32]					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work completed for creation of Child Friendly Environment</b> in Mahila Courts in 5 districts viz. Coimbatore, Salem, Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli</li> <li>• <b>Funds sanctioned for setting up Vulnerable Witness and Child Witness Examination Centers</b> in the Combined Court Building Campus at Tiruvannamalai - Construction to be commenced</li> <li>• <b>Proposal for sanction of funds pending</b> for construction of Vulnerable and Child Witness Examination Centers in Combined Court Building Campus at Salem, Karur, Tiruvallur, Trichy and Krishnagiri</li> <li>• <b>Construction of Centers</b> at Combined Court Building Campus at Vellore, Theni and Perambalur are <i>pending consideration before High Court</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Committee for 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission approved establishment of 70 Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts in 61 places in the State – All Principle District Judges/District Judges directed to set up Centers</i></p>	SOME DISTRICTS WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL AWAITING FUNDS.
7.	<b>Punjab &amp; Haryana High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 6  [No. of District Courts in Punjab = 22]	21.12.2019	<b>1</b>  <hr/> <b>5</b>	<b>NIL</b>  <hr/> <b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<p><b><u>CHANDIGARH – 1 VULNERABLE WITNESS CENTER ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Witness Center <i>established</i> in the Judicial Courts Complex, Chandigarh</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b><u>PUNJAB - VULNERABLE WITNESS CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN 5 OUT OF 20 DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Witness Centers <i>established in 5 districts</i> – Patiala, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, Kapurthala and S.A.S. Nagar</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate has been approved</i> by the Building Committee, Punjab for establishment of a Vulnerable Witness Center at Sangrur</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimates under consideration</i> by the Building Committee, Punjab for establishment of Vulnerable Witness</li> </ul>	STATE HAS GRANTED FUNDS FOR SOME DISTRICTS. COST ESTIMATE PENDING IN SOME DISTRICTS. IN OTHER DISTRICTS, FINANCIAL SANCTION YET TO BE GRANTED.

	[No. of District Courts in Haryana = 21]		<u>2</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<p>Centers <i>at 5 districts</i> – Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Barnala, Mansa and Sri Mukatsar Sahib</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cost estimate under preparation for 4 districts</i> – Moga, Fazilka, Tarn Taran, Pathankot</li> <li>• <i>Provision to be made for establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers</i> in the Judicial Courts Complexes under construction/proposed in 5 districts- Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Ropar, S.B.S. Nagar and Khanna</li> </ul> <p><b><u>HARYANA – 2 VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Centers established</i> at Kurukshetra and Sirsa</li> <li>• <i>Architectural drawing approved</i> by the Building Committee, Haryana at Bhiwani, Faridabad and Rohtak</li> <li>• <i>Architectural drawing pending</i> before the Building Committee, Haryana at Narnaul</li> <li>• <i>Architectural drawing under consideration by the Court</i> at Palwal</li> <li>• <i>Layout plan approved</i> by the Building Committee, Haryana at Kaithal</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate pending approval before the Building Committee, Haryana</i> for establishment of Vulnerable Witness Centers at the Judicial Court Complex at Jagadhri in District Yamuna Nagar and at Jhajaar</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate</i> for audio-video conferencing system at the Vulnerable Witness Centre in the Judicial Courts Complex, Panipat has been approved by the Building Committee, Haryana and is <i>pending before the Government of Haryana for administrative approval and allotment of funds</i></li> </ul> <p><i>For other Districts in Haryana, matter is under consideration before the Building Committee of the Court</i></p>		
8.	<b>Karnataka High Court</b>	20.12.2019	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<b><u>AVAILABILITY OF VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COURTS IN 4 OUT OF 30 DISTRICTS</u></b>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

	[SEPARATE VOLUME 4  [No. of District Courts = 30]					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court Rooms <i>available in 3 districts (out of 30 districts)</i> i.e. <i>Bengaluru City, Bengaluru Rural and Ballari District, Raichur</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT HASSAN</u></b> - <i>Court room designated to try POCSO Act cases (provided with child friendly environment, partition room in the Court hall with one-way glass, attached waiting room with toilet) can be used as a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT KODAGU-MADIKERI</u></b> - <i>1 Court Room in the newly constructed District Court building (scheduled to be completed by December 2019) can be used as a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT SHIVAMOGGA</u></b> - <i>Modifications proposed to court room designated to try POCSO Act cases to function as a Child Friendly as well as Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT CHAMARAJANAGAR</u></b> - <i>Cost estimate has been prepared and submitted by PWD, Chamarajanagar for alteration of ADR room into a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>REMAINING 22 DISTRICTS</u></b> – <i>Provisions have been made, in consultation with the State Govt., for suitable space/accommodation for establishing Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts</i></p>	
9.	<b>Madhya Pradesh High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 5  [No. of District Courts = 50]	16.1.2020	4	NIL	MADHYA PRADESH HAS FORMULATED ITS OWN GUIDELINES: NORMS FORMULATED REGARDING CONSTRUCTI	<p><b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ESTABLISHED = 4 DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers established in 4 Districts</i> – Jabalpur, Katni, Bhopal and Ujjain</li> <li>• <i>Construction of 15 Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers in progress in 8 Districts</i> – Vidisha, Rewa, Dewas, Indore, Shajapur, Hoshangabad, Mandla and Umaria</li> <li>• <i>Tender process pending completion for 11 Centers – 6 Districts</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposal for 19 Centers in 12 Districts – Pending Administrative and Financial Sanction</i></li> </ul>	STATE HAS GRANTED FUNDS FOR SOME DISTRICTS. TENDER PROCESS PENDING IN SOME DISTRICTS. IN OTHER

					ON OF CHILD-FRIENDLY COURTS/VULNERABLE WITNESS COMPLEX IN VARIOUS DISTRICT AND TEHSIL PLACES OF THE STATE OF MP – APRIL 2017	<i>Detailed Project Report (DPR)/Plans – Pending</i> in other Districts	DISTRICTS, FINANCIAL SANCTION YET TO BE GRANTED.
10.	<b>Jharkhand High Court</b> [Pg. No. 16-22]  [No. of District Courts = 24]	11.12.2019	3	4	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>TOTAL = 24 DISTRICTS</u></b>  <b><u>COURTS PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED = 3</u></b>  <b><u>TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS MADE = 4</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court set up</i> – Khunti (complete provisions yet to be made); Pakur; Ramgarh</li> <li>• <i>Temporary arrangement done</i> for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts at Deoghar; Dumka (temporarily POCSO Court being used); Latehar (temporary arrangements made in Court of District &amp; Addnl. Sessions Judge and District &amp; Addnl. Sessions Judge-I, Latehar)</li> <li>• <i>POCSO Courts established as Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts</i> – Garhwa</li> <li>• <i>No provision for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts</i> – Dhanbad; Giridh (POCSO Court established); Godda; Hazaribag (temporarily using curtains); Lohardaga (temporarily using curtains); Jamtara (presently using video conferencing room); Palamau at Daltonganj (temporarily video conferencing hall being used); Seraikella Kharsawan; Simdega</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate sent</i> for setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts at Civil Court, Bokaro (2 Courts) and Sub-</li> </ul>	ESTIMATION COST HAS BEEN SENT FOR SETTING UP VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTRES IN SOME DISTRICTS. THEY ARE STILL AWAITING THE FUNDS.

						<p>Divisional Civil Courts, Bermo at Tenughat (2 Courts); Chatra; Koderma; Sahibaganj (temporarily using POCSO Court) – <i>pending approval</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Map planning pending</i> for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts - East Singhbhum, Jamshedpur</li> <li>• <i>Map approved</i> for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court – Gumia</li> <li>• <i>Construction in progress</i> of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court in new Civil Courts, Ranchi – Likely to be completed soon (temporarily using curtains)</li> </ul> <p><i>Lay out plan submitted</i> for construction of new Court Complex – West Singhbhum, Chaibasa</p>	
11.	<p><b>Uttarakhand High Court</b> [Pg. No. 27-28]</p> <p>[No. of District Courts = 13]</p>	13.12.2019	2	NIL	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COURTS ESTABLISHED IN 2 OUT OF 13 DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts established in 2 districts out of 13 Districts</i> in the State of Uttarakhand– Chamoli and Champawat</li> </ul> <p>Not yet established in remaining 11 districts – Almora, Bageshwar, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Pauri, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi</p>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
12.	<p><b>Tripura High Court</b> [Pg. No. 36]</p> <p>[No. of District Courts = 8]</p>	09.12.2019	2	NIL	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>2 VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center established</i> at Udaipur, Gomati Judicial District</li> <li>• <i>State Government approached for release of funds</i> for setting up the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center at Agartala, West Tripura Judicial District</li> </ul> <p>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers to be established gradually in other Districts.</p>	STATE GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED FUNDS ONLY FOR TWO DISTRICTS AND WAS APPROACHED FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS IN

							OTHER DISTRICTS.
13.	<b>Meghalaya High Court</b> [Pg. No. 30-35]  [No. of District Courts = 11]	25.10.2019	<b>2</b>	<b>NIL</b>	GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING OF EVIDENCE OF VULNERABLE WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL MATTERS HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BUT HIGH COURT HAS STILL NOT YET NOTIFIED THE GUIDELINES.	<b><u>2 VULNERABLE WITNESS CENTERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED</u></b>  • <i>2 Vulnerable Witness Centers established at Shillong and Tura District Courts</i> [Govt. of Meghalaya, Law Dept. Notification No. LR (B)43/2017/Pt.I/1064 dated 19.1.2018] Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya has written to Commissioner and Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, Law Dept. to set up Vulnerable Witness Centers in other Districts in the State [Letter No. HCM II/214/2017/Estt. /31 dated 22.10.2019]	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
14.	<b>Jammu and Kashmir High Court</b> [Pg. No. 12-15]  [No. of District Courts = 20]	25.10.2019	<b>1</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b><u>1 VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COURT ESTABLISHED</u></b>  • <i>1 Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court established – District Court, Srinagar</i> Steps undertaken for setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts in other Districts	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
15.	<b>Patna High Court</b> [Pg. No. 1-4]	10.12.2019	<b>1</b>	<b>NIL</b>	HIGH COURT LETTER NO. 87051/SUPREME COURT	<b><u>1 VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COURT ESTABLISHED</u></b>	NOT AVAILABLE

	[No. of District Courts = 37]				DEPARTMENT DATED 15.12.2017 AND HIGH COURT LETTER NO.91669/SUPREME COURT DEPARTMENT DATED 02.12.2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court established</i> – Civil Court, Patna</li> </ul> <i>Architectural Map pending</i> for construction of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court – Civil Court, Bhagalpur	
16.	<b>Himachal Pradesh High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 3  [No. of District Courts = 11]	4.1.2020	NIL	3	HIMACHAL PRADESH ADOPTED THE GUIDELINES AS FRAMED BY THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI.	<p><b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center established</i> – Chamba (presently examined <i>in camera</i> in child friendly environment); Solan (Layout plan approved for construction of child friendly environment in POCSO Court); Kullu (no provision for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers or child-friendly courts); Bilaspur and Ghumarwin in District Bilaspur; Shimla (child friendly courts are functional); Mandi (Issue regarding establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers being discussed with District Administration); Hamirpur (no provision for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers or child-friendly courts); Kinnaur at Rampur Bushahr (temporary provisions made for child-friendly courts);</li> </ul> <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers temporarily set up</i> – Kangra at Dharamshala; Sirmour at Nahan (no provision for child friendly courts to try POCSO Act case – presently cases of juveniles are taken up in chamber by the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board/ Judicial Magistrate, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class); Una (no separate provision for child-friendly courts – presently cases of juveniles are taken up by the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board/Addnl. CJM at Observation Home, Una)	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE



17.	<b>Chhattisgarh High Court</b> [Pg. No. 11  [No. of District Courts = 25]	17.12.2019	NIL	3	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<p><b><u>3 TEMPORARY VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <p><i>3 temporary Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers established</i>– Bilaspur, Raipur, Dantewada District (equipped with witness box with curtains, separate waiting room with drinking water facility, toilet, sofa/chairs for sitting, female attendant)</p> <p><b><u>3 SPECIAL CENTERS SET UP</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3 Special Centers at Bilaspur, Raipur, and Dantewada districts</b></li> <li>• Infrastructure available at these special centers             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Witness box covered with curtains.</li> <li>- Friendly environment for the vulnerable witnesses during deposition.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Presence of Family members and female attendants during deposition/evidence for vulnerable witnesses in criminal matters as well as POCSO, and offences relating to women cases.</p>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
18.	<b>Guwahati High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME Pg. No. 1, 1A]  [No. of District Courts in Assam = 27  Nagaland =11	07.02.2020	NIL	NIL	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>ASSAM: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER ESTABLISHED = NIL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Construction of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers is in progress</i> – Ualguri and Goalpara (80% complete); Bijni in Chirang District (50% complete)</li> <li>• <i>Construction work of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers has just been allotted</i> – Tinisukia (70% complete); Mangaldoi (30% complete)</li> </ul>	ALL DISTRICTS HAVE ASKED FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. EACH DISTRICT HAS REQUESTED AN AMOUNT OF RS. 50 LAKHS.

	Mizoram =8		NIL	NIL		<b><u>NAGALAND: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTED = NIL</u></b> • <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center constructed</i>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
	Arunachal Pradesh = 16]		NIL	5		<b><u>MIZORAM: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTED = NIL</u></b> • <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center constructed</i> • Temporary arrangements made in 5 District Courts	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
			NIL	NIL		<b><u>ARUNACHAL PRADESH: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTED = NIL</u></b> <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center constructed</i>	NO GRANTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH FOR VWDC.
19.	<b>Sikkim High Court</b> [Pg. No. 25-26  [No. of District Courts = 4]	19.12.2019	NIL	NIL	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTRE ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b>  • <i>Construction of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center at District &amp; Sessions Court Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim – Construction commenced in September 2018 and is 90% complete</i> • <i>Construction of Juvenile Justice Board at Namchi – Will include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center &amp; Waiting Room- Construction commenced in September 2018 and work is in progress - 16% complete</i> • <i>Redesigning of District &amp; Sessions Court at Namchi – Will include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center &amp; Waiting Room- Construction commenced in October 2018 and is scheduled to complete in September 2020</i> • <i>Construction of Addnl. Court building at Gyalshing - Will include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center, Witness</i>	AMOUNT HAS BEEN SANCTIONED AND WORK IS IN PROGRESS. HOWEVER, STILL SOME BALANCE FUNDS ARE REQUIRED FOR COMPLETING THE WORK.

						<i>Room &amp; Waiting Room</i> - Construction commenced in August 2019 and is scheduled to complete in August 2020 – 35% work complete	
20.	<b>Calcutta High Court</b> [Pg. No. 29]  [No. of District Courts = 22]	06.12.2019	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTRE ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Govt. decided to construct Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers in Kakdwip, Baruipur, Diamond Harbour Court Complexes in District South 24 Parganas</li> <li>• <i>State Govt. granted administrative approval and sanction of funds</i> for Baruipur and Kakdwip Courts</li> <li>• <i>Reminder sent to District Judge, South 24 Parganas for issuing cost estimate</i> for establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center at Diamond Harbour Court</li> </ul>	FUNDS HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED FOR SOME COURTS.
21.	<b>Kerala High Court</b> [Pg. No. 23-24]  [No. of District Courts = 14]	20.11.2019	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTRE ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of uniform plan for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers in Subordinate Courts is pending with ‘Committee for Establishment of Courts, Tribunals and Construction of Court Buildings in the State’</li> <li>• Refurbishing work commenced in POCSO Court, Ernakulam to incorporate child friendly features</li> <li>• Proposal for modification of POCSO Court, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode to incorporate child friendly features is pending before High Court</li> </ul>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
22.	<b>Andhra Pradesh High Court</b> [Pg. No. 54]	17.02.2020	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b><u>NO VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ARE ESTABLISHED IN SUBORDINATE COURTS IN STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH</u></b>	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

	[No. of District Courts = 13]						
23.	<b>Telangana High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 8  [No. of District Courts = 10]	24.02.2020	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b><u>NO VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ARE ESTABLISHED IN SUBORINATE COURTS IN STATE OF TELANGANA</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have given the estimates for the setup of the vulnerable witness deposition centers in subordinate courts.</li> </ul>	FINANCIAL ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE DISTRICT COURTS.
24.	<b>Allahabad High Court</b> [SEPARATE VOLUME 7  [No. of District Courts = 75]	20.12.2019	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b><u>NO VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ARE ESTABLISHED IN SUBORINATE COURTS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two judgeships at Allahabad and Lucknow have been identified</b> for Child Witness Friendly Court cum Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers.</li> <li>• Drawings and design made by Delhi High Court to be followed for establishment of these centres.</li> </ul>	STATE GOVERNMENT HAD RELEASED AMOUNT FOR LUCKNOW BUT IT IS PENDING FOR ALLAHABAD.