



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**  
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**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**  
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**IN THE MATTER OF:-**

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**INDEX**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>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.</b>

**Dated: 25.10.2021**

**Reports from various High Courts in compliance of order dated 4.10.2019 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Smruti Tukaram Badade v. State of Maharashtra & Anr. (Witness Deposition Centers (VWDC)).**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **24 out of 25 High Courts have submitted status reports regarding establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers. One 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 10 out of 25 High Courts, 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. It has issued guidelines for recording of evidence of vulnerable witnesses in criminal matters. This has been adopted by other High Courts.
- Maharashtra has the most number of Permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers in its District and Sessions Courts.

S.No ./ Ranking	Concerned High Court	Date of Status Report	Number of vulnerable witness deposition centers established - permanent	Number of vulnerable witness deposition centers – temporary/ insufficient infrastructure	GUIDELINES	Status of compliance regarding Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers												
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 style="text-align: center;"><b><u>WORK COMPLETED FOR WITNESS DEPOSITION COURTS</u></b></p> <p>• <i>Status of establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers as on 1.8.2019</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S.No.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Particulars</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Work Completed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Work in Progress</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Tender Stage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No.	Particulars	T	1.	Work Completed	1	2.	Work in Progress	1	3.	Tender Stage	1
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					GENERAL TO ESTABLISH VWDCS.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Estimate Stage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>• <i>Proposal for construction of a new provision of a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center pending at Thane Headquarters.</i></p> <p><b>82 FUNCTIONAL VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS OUT OF 100</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">No. of Places</th> <th colspan="3">Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Functional</th> <th>Work in Progress</th> <th>Not Started</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>With full-fledged facilities</td> <td>With partial facilities</td> <td>With full-fledged facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>227</td> <td>33</td> <td>49</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4.	Estimate Stage			Total		No. of Places	Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres			Functional	Work in Progress	Not Started		With full-fledged facilities	With partial facilities	With full-fledged facilities	227	33	49	32
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227	33	49	32																								
2.	<b>Rajasthan High Court</b> [Pg. No. 43-52]  [No. of District Courts = 36]	09.01.2020	24	10	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b>TOTAL DISTRICTS = 35</b></p> <p><b><u>CENTERS PERMANENTLY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>CENTERS TEMPORARILY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <p>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center premises in 24 Districts Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Kota, Pali, Pratapgarh, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur, Ujjain, Jaipur Metropolitan, Jodhpur District, Karauli, Merta, Pali, Sawai Madhopur, Udaipur</i></p>																					

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Temporary arrangements for Deposition Courts made in 10 Districts - Bharatpur, Churu, Jaisalmer, Jalor and Rajsamand.</i></li> <li><i>No Centre established - Dungarpur</i></li> </ul>									
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	<b>24 VULNERABLE DEPOSITION CENTRES ARE FUNCTIONAL</b> <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 inaugurated</b> by the end of 2020</li> <li>• <b>2 districts Mahisagar and Jaisalmer</b> for district and sessions courts have vulnerable deposition centers in newly constructed court buildings</li> </ul>									
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. GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING OF EVIDENCE OF VULNERABLE WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.	<b>6 COURT COMPLEXES VULNERABLE DEPOSITION CENTRES ARE ESTABLISHED</b> <p><b>DEPOSITION COURTOOMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rouse Avenue District Court vulnerable deposition centre is not established only CBI and Labour court are functional</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No</th> <th>Court Complex</th> <th>District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Tis Hazari</td> <td>Central West</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> <td>East</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No	Court Complex	District	1.	Tis Hazari	Central West	2.		East
S.No	Court Complex	District													
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								Karkardoom a	North- East Shahdar
							3.	Dwarka	South- West
							4.	Rohini	North- West North
							5.	Patiala House	New Delhi
							6.	Saket	South South- East
							7.	Rouse Avenue (not yet district court)	New Delhi
5.	<b>Orissa High Court</b> [Pg. No. 53  [No. of District Courts = 30]	21.01.20 20	<b>9</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b>9</b>	<b><u>VULNERABLE WIT COMPLEXES HAVE BEEN SET</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9 districts where vulnerabl complexes have already be Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganj Phulbani, Sambalpur and</b></li> <li>• <b>In 7 districts, no space is a complexes – e.g., Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Nu</b></li> </ul> Collector and the executive engineer requested to take necessary steps for witness deposition complexes in the		
6.	<b>Madras High Court</b> [Pg. No. 37- 42]	02.01.20 20	<b>6</b>	<b>NIL</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<b>6</b>	<b><u>CHILD FRIENDLY D ESTABLISHED</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child Friendly Deposition Cour Court Complex, Chennai</b></li> </ul>		

	[No. of District Courts = 32]					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work completed for creation of C</b> in Mahila Courts in 5 districts Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli</li> <li>• <b>Funds sanctioned for setting up Child Witness Examination Cent</b> Building Campus at Tiruvannam commenced</li> <li>• <b>Proposal for sanction of funds p</b> Vulnerable and Child Witness Combined Court Building Ca Tiruvallur, Trichy and Krishnagiri</li> <li>• <b>Construction of Centers</b> at Combi at Vellore, Theni and Perambalur <b>before High Court</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Committee for 15<sup>th</sup> Finance establishment of 70 Vulnerable Wi 61 places</b> in the State – All Princi Judges directed to set up Centers</p>
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 ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Witness Center <i>establ</i> Complex, Chandigarh</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b><u>PUNJAB - VULNERABLE ESTABLISHED IN 5 OUT OF 20</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Witness Centers <i>est</i> Patiala, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sah Nagar</li> <li>• <b>Cost estimate has been approved</b> Punjab for establishment of a Vu Sangrur</li> <li>• <b>Cost estimates under consider</b> Committee, Punjab for establishm</li> </ul>

	[No. of District Courts in Haryana = 21]		<u>2</u>	<u>NIL</u>		<p>Centers <i>at 5 districts</i> – Ferozpur, and Sri Mukatsar Sahib</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cost estimate under preparation</i> Fazilka, Tarn Taran, Pathankot</li> <li>• <i>Provision to be made for establishment of Witness Deposition Centers</i> in the under construction/proposed in Jalandhar, Ropar, S.B.S. Nagar and</li> </ul> <p><b><u>HARYANA – 2 VULNERABLE CENTERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Centers established</i> at Kurukshetra</li> <li>• <i>Architectural drawing approved</i> by the Building Committee, Haryana at Bhiwani, Faridabad and</li> <li>• <i>Architectural drawing pending approval</i> by the Building Committee, Haryana at Narnaul</li> <li>• <i>Architectural drawing under construction</i> at Palwal</li> <li>• <i>Layout plan approved</i> by the Building Committee, Haryana at Kaithal</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate pending approval</i> by the Building Committee, Haryana for establishment of Witness Deposition Centers at the Judicial Court Complex Yamuna Nagar and at Jhajaar</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate</i> for audio-video centre at the Vulnerable Witness Centre in the District Court, Panipat has been approved by the Building Committee, Haryana and is <i>pending before the Building Committee for administrative approval and approval of the Government of Haryana</i></li> </ul> <p><i>For other Districts in Haryana, matters are pending before the Building Committee of the respective Districts.</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 STATES</u></b>



	[SEPARATE VOLUME 4  [No. of District Courts = 30]					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Witness Deposition <i>Courts in 22 districts (out of 30 districts) i.e. Ballari, Raichur, Rural and Ballari District, Raichur</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT HASSAN</u></b> - <i>Courts for POCSO Act cases (provided with separate partition room in the Court hall with waiting room with toilet) can be established in 20 Districts</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT KODAGU-MADIKERALE</u></b> - <i>newly constructed District Court for POCSO Act cases completed by December 2019) can be established in 20 Districts</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT SHIVAMOGGA</u></b> - <i>new court room designated to try POCSO Act cases as a Child Friendly as well as a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court</i></li> <li>• <b><u>DISTRICT CHAMARAJANUR</u></b> - <i>new court room has been prepared and submitted by the Government for alteration of ADR room into a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Court</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>REMAINING 22 DISTRICTS</u></b> – <i>Government is in consultation with the State Government for 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 CONSTRUCTION	<p><b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COURTS ESTABLISHED = 4 DISTRICTS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts – Jabalpur, Katni, Bhopal, Mandla</i></li> <li>• <i>Construction of 15 Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts in progress in 8 Districts – Vidisha, Jabalpur, Shajapur, Hoshangabad, Mandla, Katni, Bhopal, Jabalpur</i></li> <li>• <i>Tender process pending completion in 7 Districts</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposal for 19 Centers in 19 Districts in Administrative and Financial Sanctioned</i></li> </ul>

					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)/</i> Districts
10.	<b>Jharkhand High Court</b> [Pg. No. 16-22  [No. of District Courts = 24]	11.12.2019	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>TOTAL = 24 DISTRICTS COURTS PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED</u></b> <b><u>TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition</i> (complete provisions yet to be made)</li> <li>• <i>Temporary arrangement done</i> Deposition Courts at Deoghar; Dhanbad (Civil Court being used); Latehar (temporary Deposition Court of District &amp; Addnl. Sessions Judge-I, Latehar)</li> <li>• <i>POCSO Courts established</i> Deposition Courts – Garhwa</li> <li>• <i>No provision for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courts</i> Dhanbad; Giridih (POCSO Court at Hazaribag (temporarily using curtains); Jharia (temporarily using curtains); Jharia conferencing room); Palamau a conferencing room); Palamau a video conferencing hall being used at Simdega</li> <li>• <i>Cost estimate sent</i> for setting up Deposition Courts at Civil Court,</li> </ul>

						<p>Divisional Civil Courts, Bermo Chatra; Koderma; Sahibaganj (1 Court) – <i>pending approval</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Map planning pending</i> for Vulnerable Courts - East Singhbhum, Jamshe</li> <li>• <i>Map approved</i> for Vulnerable W Gumia</li> <li>• <i>Construction in progress</i> of Vulnerable Court in new Civil Courts, Ranch soon (temporarily using curtains) <i>Lay out plan submitted</i> for constructio – West Singhbhum, Chaibasa</li> </ul>
11.	<p><b>Uttarakhan d High Court</b> [Pg. No. 27- 28</p> <p>[No. of District Courts = 13]</p>	13.12.20 19	2	NIL	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS D ESTABLISHED IN 2 OUT OF 13</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition districts out of 13 Districts</i> in Chamoli and Champawat Not yet established in remaining Bageshwar, Dehradun, Haridwar, N Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, U Uttarkashi</li> </ul>
12.	<p><b>Tripura High Court</b> [Pg. No. 36</p> <p>[No. of District Courts = 8]</p>	09.12.20 19	2	NIL	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE.	<p><b><u>2 VULNERABLE WITNESS ESTABLISHED</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vulnerable Witness Deposition</i> Udaipur, Gomati Judicial District</li> <li>• <i>State Government approached</i> setting up the Vulnerable Witn Agartala, West Tripura Judicial D Vulnerable Witness Deposition C gradually in other Districts.</li> </ul>

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 ESTABLISHED</u></b>  • <i>2 Vulnerable Witness Centers established at Tura District Courts</i> [Govt. of Assam Notification No. LR (B)43/2017/P] Registrar General, High Court of Assam, Commissioner and Secretary, Govt. of Assam to set up Vulnerable Witness Centers in the State [Letter No. HCM II/214/2017]
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 CENTER ESTABLISHED</u></b>  • <i>1 Vulnerable Witness Depository established at District Court, Srinagar</i> Steps undertaken for setting up Vulnerable Witness Courts in other Districts
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 CENTER ESTABLISHED</u></b>

	[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>• <b>Vulnerable Witness Deposition</b> Court, Patna</li> <li><b>Architectural Map pending</b> for c</li> <li>Witness Deposition Court – Civil C</li> </ul>
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.	<b><u>VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers</b> in Chamba (presently examined in child friendly environment); Solan (Layout plan of child friendly environment in progress); provision for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers in child-friendly courts); Bilaspur and Bikaner; Bilaspur; Shimla (child friendly courts); (Issue regarding establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers being under Administration); Hamirpur (no Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers established); Kinnaur at Rampur Bushahr (temporary provision for child-friendly courts);</li> <li><b>Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers</b> established in Kangra at Dharamshala; Sirmaur at Solan; and child friendly courts to try POCSO cases. Cases of juveniles are taken up in chamber of the Juvenile Justice Board/ Judicial Magistrate. Separate provision for child-friendly courts for juveniles are taken up by the Principal Magistrate/Juvenile Justice Board/Addnl. CJM at Obser</li> </ul>

17.	<b>Chhattisgarh High Court</b> [Pg. No. 11  [No. of District Courts = 25]	17.12.2019	NIL	3	NO GUIDELINES AVAILABLE	<b>3 TEMPORARY VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS ESTABLISHED</b>  <i>3 temporary Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers established</i> – Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg (with witness box with curtains, separate drinking water facility, toilet, sofa, and attendant)  <b>3 SPECIAL CENTERS SET UP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3 Special Centers at Dantewada districts</b></li> <li>• Infrastructure available at the following locations:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Witness box covered with curtains</li> <li>- Friendly environment for witnesses during deposition</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Presence of Family members and legal representatives for deposition/evidence for vulnerable witness cases as well as POCSO, and other cases.
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.	<b>ASSAM: VULNERABLE WITNESS CENTER ESTABLISHED = NIL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Construction of Vulnerable Witness Centers progress</i> – Udalguri and Goalpara (Chirang District (50% complete)</li> <li>• <i>Construction work of Vulnerable Witness Centers has just been allotted</i> – Mangaldoi (30% complete)</li> </ul>

	Mizoram =8		NIL	NIL		<b><u>NAGALAND: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTED = NIL</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition</i></li> </ul>
	Arunachal Pradesh = 16]		NIL	5		<b><u>MIZORAM: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTED = NIL</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition</i></li> <li>• Temporary arrangements made in</li> </ul>
			NIL	NIL		<b><u>ARUNACHAL PRADESH: VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTED = NIL</u></b> <i>No Vulnerable Witness Deposition</i>
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 CENTER ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Construction of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Room District &amp; Sessions Court Complex Sikkim</i> – Construction commenced in 2018, 90% complete</li> <li>• <i>Construction of Juvenile Justice Centre Sikkim include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Room</i>- Construction commenced in 2018, work is in progress - 16% complete</li> <li>• <i>Redesigning of District &amp; Sessions Court Sikkim include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Room</i>- Construction commenced in 2018, scheduled to complete in September 2019</li> <li>• <i>Construction of Addnl. Court building Sikkim include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Room</i>- Construction commenced in 2018, scheduled to complete in September 2019</li> </ul>

						<i>Room &amp; Waiting Room - Co</i> August 2019 and is scheduled to 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 CENTERS ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Govt. decided to const Deposition Centers in Kakdwip, H Court Complexes in District Sout</li> <li>• <i>State Govt. granted administrative funds</i> for Baruipur and Kakdwip</li> <li>• <i>Reminder sent to District Judges issuing cost estimate</i> for establish Deposition Center at Diamond Ha</li> </ul>
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 CENTERS ESTABLISHED – NIL</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of uniform plan for Vul Centers in Subordinate Courts is for Establishment of Courts, Tri Court Buildings in the State’</li> <li>• Refurbishing work commenced in to incorporate child friendly featu</li> <li>• Proposal for modification Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhi friendly features is pending befor</li> </ul>
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. 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 I ARE ESTABLISHED IN SUBOR STATE OF TELANGANA</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have given the estimate of vulnerable witness depositions in district courts.</li> </ul>
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 I ARE ESTABLISHED IN SUBOR</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two judgeships at Allahabad have been identified</b> for Child Welfare Vulnerable Witness Depositions.</li> <li>• Drawings and design made by the court followed for establishment of</li> </ul>