

Over 200 civil society leaders write to CJI urging hearing of pending key constitutional matters in SC

In an open letter addressed to Chief Justice of India, they urged the Supreme Court to take up hearings into issues like CAA, Abrogation of Article 370, farm laws, continued misuse of UAPA etc

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Over 200 civil society leaders have written a joint petition to the Chief Justice of India requesting listing of important pending constitutional matters including CAA, Abrogation of Article 370, farm laws, continued misuse of UAPA etc.

“We request you to consider constituting Benches of appropriate strength as a matter of great urgency, to hear the cases concerning these and other constitutional matters, which are pending before the Hon’ble Supreme Court, some for over two years,” they wrote.

“These cases affect the daily lives of very large sections of the populace, in addition to being issues of national importance. Early disposal of these Constitution cases will restore the faith that we as citizens repose in the judiciary and the Supreme Court,” they said.

Here is the full text of the letter:

Respected Hon’ble Chief Justice of India,

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens from various fields, approaching you regarding non-listing as also pending adjudication in the Hon'ble Supreme Court on several urgent matters affecting citizen's fundamental rights, as also matters of national importance.

The recent appointment of nine judges to the Supreme Court, bringing the Judge strength up to 31, is undoubtedly a welcome development. While it has deservedly received wide

public approbation, it has also raised public expectation of adjudication on long-pending cases which have deeply affected people's lives, livelihoods and communities.

It is learnt from the Supreme Court website, accessed on 01.11.2021, that among the 421 Constitutional Bench matters cases pending before 5, 7 and 9-judge Benches, there are 49 main matters and 372 connected matters, as on 01.10.2021.

The following urgent matters are pending hearing and judicial decision:

1. Abrogation of Article 370, without due Parliamentary process
2. Continuing misuse of UAPA, which is already under challenge
3. Citizenship Amendment Act
4. Farm Laws; SC appointed expert committee's report submitted in March, 2021, but case yet to be heard
5. Sedition law IPC Sec.124
6. Breach of fundamental rights with regard to personal privacy, inherent in matters relating to:
 1. Pegasus
 2. Aadhaar
7. Electoral Bonds & transparency in election financing.
8. Rafale fighter aircraft deal

We request you to consider constituting Benches of appropriate strength as a matter of great urgency, to hear the cases concerning these and other constitutional matters, which are pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, some for over two years.

These cases affect the daily lives of very large sections of the populace, in addition to being issues of national importance. Early disposal of these Constitution cases will restore the faith that we as citizens repose in the judiciary and the Supreme Court.

With respectful regards and best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd). Alibag. Medha Patkar, Social Activist, NAPM, NBA.

Julio Ribeiro, IPS (Retd).

Rajmohan Gandhi, University of Illinois, Urbana, USA.

Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Kochi.

Shruti Lokre, Lawyer, Mumbai.

Smiti Sharma, Lawyer, Raipur.

Neelabh Dubey, Lawyer, Raipur.

Radha Gopalan, Environmental Scientist & Educator, Thiruvananthapuram.

Anitha S, Ecological Educator, Thiruvananthapuram.

Omair Ahmad, Journalist, New Delhi.

Bobby Kunhu, Lawyer.

Pamela Philipose, Journalist, Delhi.

Lalita Ramdas, Citizen, Activist, Educator, Alibag.

Javed Anand, Human Rights Activist & Journalist, Mumbai.

Dunu Roy, Hazards Centre, Delhi.

Rita Manchanda, Peace and Human Rights Scholar-Activist, Delhi.

Henri Tiphagne, Advocate, Madras High Court, Madurai.

Suhasini Mulay.

Subhash Gatade, New Socialist Initiative.

Anand Sahay, Columnist and leader-writer, Delhi.

Kalpana Kannabiran, Independent Researcher, Secunderabad.

ID Khajuria, Peace Activist & President, J&K Forum for Peace and Territorial Integrity of State. Sanam Sutirath Wazir, Human Rights Activist.

Samvartha Sahil, Freelance writer and teacher, Manipal.

Aakar Patel, Columnist.

Sajjad Hussain, Political Activist, Ladakh.

A.C Michael, Former Member of Delhi Minorities Commission and National Co-ordinator of United Christian Forum.

Praveen Sawhney, Editor Force news magazine.

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Col Pavan Nair, VSM (Retd), Pune.

Navjot Altaf, Visual Artist, Mumbai.

Saeed Mirza, Filmmaker, Writer, Mumbai.

K Babu Rao, Former Chief Scientist, Hyderabad.

Dr Vivek Monteiro, Secretary CITU Maharashtra, Mumbai.

Asha V, Home maker, language teacher, Mysuru.

Persis Ginwalla, Ahmedabad.

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Dr Anjali Monteiro, Academic and Filmmaker, Goa.

Dr KP Jayasankar, Academic and Filmmaker, Goa.

Niloufer Bhagwat, Advocate, Mumbai.

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Sukla Sen, Peace Activist, Mumbai.

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Anuradha Talwar, Trade Union Organiser, West Bengal.

Prof Ujjwal K Chowdhury, Secretary, Global Media Education Council.

Anand Patwardhan.

Atul Gurtu, (Retired), Prof TIFR, Mumbai.

Dwarikanath Rath, Movement for Secular Democracy (MSD) Ahmedabad. Apar Gupta, Executive Director, Internet Freedom Foundation.

C. Rammanohar Reddy, Editor, The India Forum.

Rimmi Vaghela, Research Scholar and student activist.

Altaf Hussain, Paediatrician, Srinagar.

Jean Dreze, Economist.

Shabnam Hashmi, Social Activist, Managing Trustee, Anhad.

Sujata Madhok, Independent Journalist, New Delhi.

Sahba Hussain, Independent Researcher and Author, New Delhi.

Farooq Trali, Chairman Citizens Council.

Tanveer Hussain Khan, Human Rights defender, Srinagar.

Prof. Mukesh Kumar, Journalist and Academician, Consulting Editor, satyahindi.com

Rajaram Tallur, Ex Journalist, Udupi

N.D Pancholi, Advocate, Delhi.

Aijaz Zaka Syed, Journalist and columnist.

Anand Vardhan Singh, Managing Editor and Founder thepublic.india

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Shalu Nigam Advocate, Delhi.

Sachin Godambe, Social Activist & Freelance Journalist, Pune.

Neelima Sharma, Dramatist, Activist.

Shamsul Islam author.

Leena Dabiru, Social Activist, Delhi.

Ranabir Samaddar, Researcher.

Kathyayini Chamaraj, Freelance Journalist.

Uma Chakravarti, Retired teacher, Delhi University.

Anand Chakravarti, Retired teacher, Delhi University.

Asha Hans, Academic.

Evita Das, PIPFPD.

Vijayan M.J, PIPFPD.

Darshan Dalal.

Geeta Seshu, Journalist.

Farida Khan, Academic (Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia, retired).

Joe Athialy.

Nandini Sundar, Delhi University.

Manoranjan Mohanty, Retired Professor, Delhi University.

Mandeep Punia, Journalist.

Swati Bhattacharjee, Senior Assistant Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika.

Nilova Roy Choudhury, Journalist.

Sevanti Ninan, Journalist.

Badri Raina, Retired Teacher, Delhi University.

Dr Goldy M George, Activist, Author, Academician.

Dr Sandhya Kumari, Professor of Law, Galgotias University.

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K Ashok Rao, Retired.

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Raja Rajeev Kumar, Entrepreneur, Mentor and Social Change Maker.

Swatija Pranjpe, Feminist Activist.

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Aruna Rodrigues, Citizen, Mhow.

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Ardhendu Sen, Retd Govt Servant, Gurgaon.

Meena Gupta, Former Secretary to GOI, Hyderabad.

Gopal K Pillai, Former Union Home Secretary, New Delhi.

Gourisankar Ghosh IAS (Retd), Former Executive Director UN Water and Sanitation Council, Geneva. Rudi Warjri, Constitutional Conduct Group.

Dr Anita Dighe, Concerned Citizen, NOIDA.

Maj M G Devasahayam, Former IAS [Haryana], Nagercoil, TN.

Manjulika Dubey, Citizen, Delhi.

Cdr Sati Taneja, IN Retd , Bengaluru.

Dr Sudhir R Naik, Cardiologist, Hyderabad.

Dr Usha S Naik, Consultant Psychiatrist, Hyderabad.

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Joy Oommen, Bengaluru.

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Navaid Hamid, President, All India Muslim Majlis e Mushawarat.

TK Banerji, IAS, Former Defence Secretary.

Dr Sagari R Ramdas, Food Sovereignty Alliance, Hyderabad.

Dr Jyoti Krishnan, Trivandrum University.

Navrekha Sharma, IFS, Former Ambassador.

A Selvaraj, IRS, Commissioner Income Tax, Chennai.

Gurjit Singh Cheema, IAS, Chandigarh.

Pranab Dasgupta, IAS, Bengaluru.

Sushil Khanna, Professor Retired, IIM, Calcutta.

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