

LAW CAPSULE

FOR LAW COMPETITIVE EXAMS

POPULAR/ALTERNATE NAMES OF IMPORTANT CASES

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INTRODUCTION

Some cases are landmark cases. They have the ability to shake the conscience of the masses in general and the Judiciary and Law Makers

in particular. The following table enumerates the cases (along with their popular names and importance) which have influenced

greatly the working of Indian Democracy and the Judiciary, in the second half of the existence of the Indian Republic.

SL. NO.	POPULAR/ALTERNATE NAME OF THE CASE	CASE WITH CITATION	IMPORTANCE
1.	Basic Structure Case/ Fundamental Rights Case	<i>Keshavanand Bharti v. State of Kerala</i> , (1973) 4 SCC 225	Doctrine of Basic Structure was evolved by the Supreme Court
2.	<i>Habeas Corpus Case</i>	<i>ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla</i> , AIR 1976 SC 1207	Led to Constitutional Amendment Act wherein Right to Life and Personal Liberty was made a right which can not be withdrawn even during an Emergency
3.	Mathura Rape Case	<i>Tukaram & Anr. v. State of Maharashtra</i> , AIR 1979 SC 185	Supreme Court acquitted constables Tukaram and Ganpat in 1979 of custodial rape charges after disbelieving the testimony of the victim. Public outrage led to amendment of Criminal Law in 1983
4.	Bandhua Mukti Morcha (Bonded Labour Case) Case	<i>Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India and Others</i> , (1984) 2 SCR 67	Cause against Bonded Labour was strengthened in India
5.	Sexual Harassment of Women Case	<i>Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan and others</i> , AIR 1997 SC 3011	Supreme Court framed Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women in Workplace
6.	Hawala Case	<i>CBI v. V C Shukla</i> , AIR 1998 SC 1406	Central Vigilance Commission became a statutory body
7.	Best Bakery Case	<i>Zahira Habibulla H. Sheikh v. State of Gujarat</i> , (2004) 4 SCC 158 and (2006) 3 SCC 374	Was a sample case of Gujarat Riots of 2002 which shook the conscience of the nation
8.	Priyadarshani Mattoo's Murder Case	<i>State (Through CBI) v. Santosh Kumar Singh</i> , Criminal Appeal No. 233 of 2000, Decided on October 17, 2006 by Delhi High Court. Matter pending before Supreme Court	Highlighted the importance of proper use of DNA technology and other forensic applications in judicial decisions
9.	Jessica Lal Murder Case	<i>State v. Sidhartha Vashisht @ Manu Sharma and Ors.</i> , Criminal Appeal No.193 of 2006, Decided on December 18, 2006 by Delhi High Court. Matter pending before Supreme Court	Witness Protection Law of India being strengthened
10.	Nitish Katara Murder Case	<i>State of Uttar Pradesh v. Vikas Yadav & others</i> . Matter pending in Trial Court	Final decision awaited
11.	BMW Hit and Run Case	<i>Sanjeev Nanda v. State of NCT of Delhi</i> , CRL M.C. No. 1035 of 2007. Matter pending in the Trial Court.	Final decision awaited

CONCLUSION

In many ways they are the sample cases which have tested the strength of India's Justice Delivery System and prosecution ability. It can be safely added that these cases have in many ways strengthened the hands of 'Rule of Law' in India.

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