

Supreme court of India to adopt a “neutral citation system”

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In news– Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has recently announced that the Supreme Court will adopt a “neutral citation system” for its judgments.

What is a “citation” and a neutral citation?

- A **case citation is essentially an identification tag for a judgement.** Typically, it would **contain a reference number, the year of the judgement,** the name of the court that delivered that judgement, and a shorthand for the journal publishing the judgement.
- **A neutral citation would mean that the court would assign its own citation – distinct from those given by traditional Law Reporters.**
- Law Reporters are periodicals or annual digests that publish judgments, often with an editorial note to make it accessible for lawyers to refer to precedents.
- For example, for the landmark Kesavananda Bharati case, the citation in ‘Supreme Court Cases’, a journal published by the Eastern Book Company, is (1973) 4 SCC 225. In the All India Reporter (AIR), the citation is AIR 1973 SC 1461.
- **Judgments mention citations while referring to precedents and often use citations from different Law Reporters.** With artificial intelligence (AI) enabled translation of judgments and transcribing of court proceedings, **a uniform citation is necessary.**
- Several High Courts including Delhi High Court have started a neutral citation format.

Further

reading:

<https://journalsofindia.com/the-supreme-court-of-india-transcribes-its-proceedings-live-using-ai/>