

## Sedition, Farm Laws, Electoral Bonds: Over 200 Eminent Citizens Urge CJI to Hear Key Matters

A letter to the CJI stresses that some of these matters, pending for as long as two years, affect several people's lives and livelihoods acutely.



[The Wire Staff](#)

17 HOURS AGO

**New Delhi:** Over 200 eminent citizens, including professors, civil servants, journalists and prominent activists have written an open letter to the Chief Justice of India, attempting to draw his attention to the pending status of key matters in Supreme Court, covering issues from the Citizenship Amendment Act to electoral bonds.

The signatories to the letter note that among the 421 Constitutional Bench cases pending before various benches, there are 49 main matters and 372 connected matters as on October 2021.

The matters listed in the letter as deserving of the court's immediate attention include the reading down of [Article 370](#) in Jammu and Kashmir without due parliamentary process, the continuing misuse of [UAPA](#), which is already under challenge, the [Citizenship Amendment Act](#), the farm laws for which the [SC appointed expert committee's report](#) was submitted in March, 2021, but the case is yet to be heard,

the [sedition law](#), matters related to personal privacy in the [Pegasus](#) and Aadhaar cases, [electoral bonds](#) and transparency in election financing, and the [Rafale fighter aircraft deal](#).

Highlighting that the urgent matters affect citizen's fundamental rights and are also matters of national importance, the letter notes that the recent appointment of nine judges to the Supreme Court, bringing the judge strength up to 31, has raised public expectation of adjudication on long-pending cases.

The letter stresses that some of these matters, pending for as long as two years, affect several people's lives and livelihoods acutely.

"Early disposal of these Constitution cases will restore the faith that we as citizens repose in the judiciary and the Supreme Court," the writers observe.

Below are the signatories:

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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.

Omais 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.

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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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