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# **A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL (NCLT): STRUCTURE, ROLE, AND FUNCTIONING**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013, is India's primary venue for swiftly and effectively resolving business disputes. It combined the operations of previous organizations such as the Company Law Board (CLB) and the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) into a single tribunal, following the Justice Eradi Committee's recommendations. India now has a single, cohesive platform for corporate justice.

Protection of shareholder rights, mergers and amalgamations, and bankruptcy resolution under the bankruptcy and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 are just a few of the many issues that the NCLT deals with. This study employs a doctrinal method to analyse the NCLT's structure and practical operation by looking at legislation, statutory provisions, and secondary sources.

**Keywords:** National Company Law Tribunal, NCLT, Company Law, Insolvency, IBC 2016.

## INTRODUCTION:

In order to manage company-related disputes and appeals in India, the Companies Act of 2013 established the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) (Companies Act, 2013, ss. 408–434)<sup>1</sup>. The NCLT is the main venue for resolving disputes pertaining to business law, such as those involving shareholders, mergers and acquisitions, and instances of oppression and poor management. It was also appointed as the adjudicating body for corporate bankruptcy and liquidation cases following the implementation of the bankruptcy and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016<sup>2</sup> (IBC, 2016, s. 60)<sup>3</sup>. Appeals against rulings issued under the Companies Act and the IBC are reviewed and decided by the NCLAT, which serves as the appellate tribunal may hear appeals from parties unhappy with NCLT orders (Companies Act, 2013, s. 410)<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to examining appeals from in addition to NCLT cases, the NCLAT considers appeals of decisions made by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in accordance with the Competition Act of 2002 (Competition Act, 2002, s. 53B)<sup>5</sup>. This expanded jurisdiction enables the NCLAT to function as a centralised institution for corporate, insolvency, and competition-related appellate matters. The Justice Eradi Committee Report (2000)<sup>6</sup> had previously emphasized the necessity for a two-tier tribunal structure that would facilitate business conflict settlement, lower pendency, guarantee specialized adjudication, and ease the strain on High Courts. Together, the NCLT and NCLAT are crucial in bolstering corporate governance, expediting the settlement of insolvency, and enhancing the general ease of conducting business in India.

After years of deliberation that started with the Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi Committee's 1999 recommendations, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was eventually established in 2016. The Committee examined other nations' corporate and insolvency frameworks and

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<sup>1</sup> Government of India. (2013). *The Companies Act, 2013* (Act No. 18 of 2013). Ministry of Law and Justice. <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>

<sup>2</sup> Government of India. (2016). *The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016*. Ministry of Law and Justice. <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>

<sup>3</sup> Government of India. (2016). *The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016* (Act No. 31 of 2016). Ministry of Law and Justice. <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> Government of India. (2002). *The Competition Act, 2002* (Act No. 12 of 2003). Ministry of Law and Justice. <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>

<sup>6</sup> Government of India. (2000). *Report of the High-Level Committee on Law Relating to Insolvency of Companies (Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi Committee Report)*. Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

contrasted them with India's disjointed system. It suggested combining organizations such as the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR), the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), and the Company Law Board (CLB) into a single specialized body. The NCLT was intended to serve as a single, unified forum that could handle all significant company law issues, including disputes involving oppression and mismanagement, mergers and amalgamations, and the full corporate insolvency and liquidation process, after the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was introduced in 2016. In light of this, the study's goals are to investigate the NCLT's historical development and legal basis, analyze its operations and structure, assess how well it resolves corporate disputes, and comprehend how it affects India's business environment.

When the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was introduced in 2016, the NCLT was intended to serve as a single forum that could handle all significant company law issues, including mergers and amalgamations and disputes pertaining to oppression and poor management, and the full corporate insolvency and liquidation process. In light of this, the study's goals are to investigate the NCLT's historical development and legal basis, analyze its operations and structure, assess how well it resolves corporate disputes, and comprehend its influence on India's economic environment. In order to achieve these goals, the study employs a qualitative doctrinal methodology based on the examination of key statutes like in addition to a survey of scholarly literature, policy studies, and government documents, this study is based on an analysis of the Companies Act, 2013 and the IBC, 2016. Case-based analysis of significant rulings rendered by the NCLT and its appellate body, the NCLAT, is also included. Several significant cases demonstrate the Tribunal's significant role in influencing company law and bolstering consumer trust. The IL&FS case demonstrated the Tribunal's capacity to handle significant financial failures; the Bhushan Steel and Bhushan Power resolutions demonstrated the speed and efficacy of the IBC framework; the Essar Steel insolvency demonstrated the priority given to financial creditors; and the Jet Airways case demonstrated India's willingness to participate in cross-border insolvency cooperation.

The NCLT has greatly improved India's corporate dispute-resolution system by lowering delays, offering specialized expertise, and guaranteeing more predictable business outcomes—despite obstacles like a tremendous workload, a shortage of personnel, and infrastructure shortages. The NCLT is still an essential organization for maintaining stability, efficiency, and accountability in the corporate regulatory environment as India's economy expands.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Eradi Committee was established by the Indian government in 1999 to examine the current legislation pertaining to corporate bankruptcy and the winding-up procedure and to suggest any required changes. Modernizing these laws and bringing them into compliance with international norms was the goal. The recommendations of this High-Level Committee on Law Relating to Insolvency of Companies, presided over by former Supreme Court judge Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi, served as the foundation for the creation of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) (Government of India, 2000). After examining India's corporate insolvency framework and contrasting it with systems in several other nations, the Committee suggested significant changes to improve and simplify the procedure. Adding Parts IB and IC to the Companies Act of 1956, which would provide a single tribunal structure for managing company law cases, was one of the Committee's main recommendations. The Committee envisioned the NCLT as a single, specialized body that would take over certain company-law powers previously held by the High Courts. Additionally, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR), and the Company Law Board were to be replaced under a single structure. Since its founding, the NCLT's mandate has grown to reflect new legislative changes. Other important laws, such as the SEBI Act of 1992, in addition to the Competition Act of 2002, the Companies Act of 2013, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016, also influence how it operates today<sup>7</sup>. Because these laws govern diverse aspects of corporate regulation, insolvency, competition oversight, and securities markets, the NCLT is currently a crucial institution in India's corporate dispute-resolution system, handling a wide range of disputes arising under these laws.

The Madras High Court Bar Association voiced reservations on May 11 over the goals and operations of the NCLT and NCLAT, particularly with regard to the 2002 Amendment Act, which was based on the recommendations of the Eradi Committee. The primary points of disagreement in *Union of India v. R. Gandhi* were:

- Fundamental judicial duties cannot be just transferred to a tribunal by the legislature. Judicial powers have historically only been used by the courts since

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<sup>7</sup> Government of India. (1992). *The Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992*. Ministry of Law and Justice. <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>

they are an essential component of the legal system and are safeguarded by the separation of powers principle.

- It would be against the separation of powers principle to grant the NCLT total control over corporate law cases that were previously handled by the High Courts. The independence and impartiality of the legal system are seriously called into question when a whole category of cases is transferred from the judiciary to a tribunal that operates under the Executive (more precisely, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs).

The government addressed the Madras High Court Bar Association's concerns in the same R. Gandhi case by outlining the purpose and significance of the NCLT and NCLAT. The government claimed that these tribunals fulfil a number of important roles, citing the following goals and duties as their main justification:

- a) Cutting the duration of winding-up or insolvency cases from about 25 years to roughly 2 years.
- b) Offering a quicker appeals process via the NCLAT, which examines NCLT rulings. For corporation law cases, this speeds up and improves the efficiency of the appeals procedure.
- c) Helping lessen the large backlog of cases in the Indian judiciary by eliminating bodies like the BIFR and AAIFR, and lowering the workload of the higher courts.

In this instance, the Supreme Court upheld Parliament's authority to establish national company law tribunals. But it also decided that the 2002 amendment's NCLT and NCLAT structure was unlawful. The government was then instructed by the Apex Court to alter the Companies Act, 2002. These adjustments were necessary in sectors like:

- i. How the tribunals are established
- ii. How long their members have served (tenure);
- iii. The requirements for those nominated to judicial and technical positions.

Parliament changed the 2002 statute according to the standards in the 2010 case *Union of India*

v. R. Gandhi, the Supreme Court upheld these modifications. These changes were later included in the Companies Act of 2013, which superseded the earlier Companies Act's provisions. The Madras High Court Bar Association, however, contested the 2013 Act once more, claiming that some of its provisions, particularly those about the NCLT and NCLAT did not completely apply the previous Supreme Court decision. The case eventually made its way back to the Supreme Court, which affirmed the NCLT and NCLAT's legitimacy in *Madras Bar Association v. Union of India and Others* (March 2015).<sup>8</sup>

### **COMPOSITION OF NCLT:**

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), presided over by a president, consists of both judicial and technical members.

#### **a) President:**

After consulting with the Chief Justice of India, the Central Government appoints the President of the NCLT.

The candidate must have served as a High Court judge for at least five years in order to be eligible for this job. This clause ensures that the President has a strong and reliable judicial base.

#### **b) Judicial Members:**

- The following people may be appointed as Judicial Members by the NCLT.
- Those who have served as High Court judges in the past or are now serving.
- People who have been District Judges for at least five years.
- Individuals with at least ten years of experience as an attorney or advocate.

These members contribute a significant amount of legal knowledge and experience to the tribunal.

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<sup>8</sup> Jaiswal, S., Singh, P., & Singh, V. (2023). Analysis of 'National Company Law Tribunal'. *International Journal of Law Management and Humanities*, 6(2), 2316–2326.

**c) Technical Members:**

The NCLT is authorized to appoint the following individuals as Technical Members:

- Someone who has worked as a secretary or Additional Secretary in the Indian Corporate Law Service or Indian Legal Service for at least 15 years;
- A Chartered Accountant with at least 15 years of professional experience;
- A Company Secretary with at least 15 years of experience;
- A person who has led a Labour Court, Tribunal, or National Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for at least five years;
- A person with at least 15 years of specialized experience in fields like industrial finance, management, rehabilitation, investment, or accounting.

These members offer the Tribunal invaluable business, accounting, and financial experience. Their expertise aids the Tribunal in comprehending and managing intricate business issues.

Typically, one Judicial Member and one Technical Member lead each Tribunal bench. Each issue is considered from both technical and legal perspectives because members from both professions are included.<sup>9</sup>

Based on the requirements and workload of the Tribunal, the Central Government establishes the necessary number of Judicial and Technical Members.

**BENCHES OF NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL:**

The Tribunal has set up benches across India since its inception in 2016. At the outset, there were eleven benches: ten located in different cities and one principal bench situated in New Delhi. Five further benches were subsequently installed in Cuttack, Jaipur, Kochi, Amaravati, and Indore. These benches all hear cases about bankruptcy, insolvency, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate law.

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<sup>9</sup> Rajan, U. (2020, December 5). National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) — Composition, Powers & Jurisdiction. LawColumn

There are 16 benches (1 Principal Bench and 15 other Benches) operating across India; some of these are listed below:<sup>10</sup>

### NCLT Benches and Territorial Jurisdiction

S.No	Bench Name	Location	Territorial Jurisdiction
1	Principal Bench	New Delhi	Delhi (UT)
2	New Delhi Bench	New Delhi	Delhi (UT)
3	Ahmedabad Bench	Ahmedabad	Gujarat; Dadra & Nagar Haveli; Daman & Diu
4	Allahabad Bench	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh; Uttarakhand
5	Amaravati Bench	Amaravati	Andhra Pradesh
6	Bengaluru Bench	Bengaluru	Karnataka
7	Chandigarh Bench	Chandigarh	Himachal Pradesh; Jammu & Kashmir; Punjab; Haryana; Chandigarh (UT)
8	Chennai Bench	Chennai	Tamil Nadu; Puducherry (UT)
9	Cuttack Bench	Cuttack	Odisha; Chhattisgarh
10	Guwahati Bench	Guwahati	Assam; Arunachal Pradesh; Manipur; Mizoram;

<sup>10</sup> National Company Law Tribunal. (2025). National Company Law Tribunal benches.



			Meghalaya; Nagaland; Sikkim; Tripura
11	Hyderabad Bench	Hyderabad	Telangana
12	Indore Bench	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
13	Jaipur Bench	Jaipur	Rajasthan
14	Kochi Bench	Kochi	Kerala; Lakshadweep (UT)
15	Kolkata Bench	Kolkata	West Bengal; Bihar; Jharkhand; Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)
16	Mumbai Bench	Mumbai	Maharashtra; Goa

Table 1: National Company Law Tribunal – *Benches* Government of India, Ministry of Corporate Affairs <https://nclt.gov.in/national-company-law-tribunal-benches>

### FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL:

The NCLT's broad authority and responsibilities make it a crucial part of India's corporate law system. Here is a quick rundown of its primary goals:

- a) **Business Registration and Deregistration:** If a company's registration was completed through fraudulent means, the NCLT can challenge it. Furthermore, it possesses the power to dissolve or annul such entities.
- b) **Share Transfer Disputes:** It resolves conflicts pertaining to the transfer of shares, guaranteeing openness and defending shareholders' interests.

- c) **Deposit-Related Complaints:** The NCLT handles complaints regarding fraudulent deposit schemes or situations in which businesses neglect to reimburse deposits in order to protect investors.
- d) **Investigative Powers:** The NCLT has the authority to order an investigation into the business's operations if there are indications of fraud, poor management, or any other misconduct.
- e) **Freezing Assets:** To prevent businesses or individuals engaged in fraud from transferring or misusing funds, the Tribunal may freeze their assets.<sup>11</sup>
- f) **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Proceedings:** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is the principal entity in charge of overseeing corporate bankruptcy operations, as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). It controls the entire insolvency process, selects specialists, and authorizes resolution plans.
- g) **Business Transformations:** When a private firm becomes a public company, for example, the Tribunal oversees structural changes.
- h) **Amalgamations and Mergers:** To guarantee equity for all parties, it manages significant corporate restructuring procedures such as mergers, demergers, and amalgamations.
- i) **Prevention of Oppression and Mismanagement:** When the majority mismanages the company or participates in unethical commercial practices, the NCLT defends the interests of minority shareholders.<sup>12</sup>
- j) **Winding Up of Companies:** The Tribunal may mandate a company's liquidation (winding up) in specific situations.<sup>13</sup>

## POWERS OF NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL

To guarantee its effective functioning, the tribunal possesses several powers, including:

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<sup>11</sup> ClearTax. (2025). NCLT - Understanding National Company Law Tribunal and its power.

<sup>12</sup> The Legal School. (2025). NCLT in Company Law: Meaning, Features, Functions, Powers & More.

<sup>13</sup> The Legal School. (2025). NCLT in Company Law: Meaning, Features, Functions, Powers & More.

- a) Summoning individuals to appear: When deemed necessary, individuals may be required to present themselves before the tribunal.
- b) Requesting documentation: It holds the power to demand any records or documents relevant to a case.
- c) Questioning under oath: The tribunal may interrogate parties while they are under oath.
- d) Issuing directives: It is empowered to issue various orders, including those related to bankruptcy, insolvency, mergers, and the dissolution of companies.
- e) Imposing penalties: The tribunal has the authority to levy fines against businesses or individuals who fail to comply with its orders or breach the Companies Act.

In general, the NCLT plays a vital role in:

- Facilitating the resolution of corporate disputes: It minimises complexity and delays by providing a centralised venue for addressing diverse business matters.
- Providing effective corporate governance: The NCLT ensures that companies comply with the Companies Act and protect the rights of all stakeholders.
- Aiding in the resolution of insolvency cases: It offers a transparent framework for handling insolvent businesses, assisting in the revival of those that can be rescued and closing those that cannot.
- Establishing a business-friendly climate: The NCLT promotes a steadier and predictable business environment by guaranteeing just and effective dispute settlement.
- The NCLT is primarily empowered by the Companies Act of 2013 and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016.

#### **BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL'S FORMATION:**

Since the NCLT was established, India's commercial structure has benefited greatly. Among

the main benefits are:<sup>14</sup>

### 1. **Simpler and More Effective Dispute Settlement**

- **Single platform:** The NCLT unifies various corporate issues under one roof. In the past, several organizations, including High Courts, BIFR, and CLB, handled cases about insolvency, business law, and mismanagement, which frequently resulted in delays and conflicting rulings.
- **Lessened court burden:** The NCLT's handling of most business issues has reduced the workload of courts, freeing up regular courts to focus on other cases.
- **Faster rulings:** Especially about the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the NCLT aims to speed up case resolution. This helps protect shareholder confidence and prevents a company's asset value from decreasing.

### 2. **Increased Proficiency and Effectiveness**

- **Specialized Tribunal:** Members of the NCLT have extensive skills in business, law, and finance, making it a specialized body. This guarantees that corporate conflicts are addressed by experts in the field.
- **Technical Knowledge:** Having technical specialists on NCLT benches makes it easier to accurately analyze complicated business problems, which results in better and more dependable judgments.

### 3. **Simpler Business Deals**

- **Clear Legal System:** By giving businesses a more predictable and unambiguous legal framework, the NCLT helps to foster a stable business environment.
- **Increased Investor Confidence:** Investors are more confident since the NCLT resolves disputes fairly and effectively, which makes investing in India more alluring.
- **Decreased Legal Costs:** By simplifying the dispute resolution procedure, the NCLT

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<sup>14</sup> Rohilla, J. S. (2023). What are the benefits of NCLT? Advocate J.S. Rohilla.

assists businesses in reducing their legal costs, freeing them up to concentrate more on their primary business operations.

#### 4. Efficient Resolution of Insolvency

- **Time-bound Process:** By guaranteeing the prompt and effective handling of insolvency proceedings, the NCLT plays a crucial part in the implementation of the IBC. This facilitates the revival of viable enterprises and increases the amount of money that creditors can recoup.<sup>15</sup>
- **Professional Oversight:** To guarantee equity and openness, the NCLT supervises the selection of resolution specialists and keeps an eye on the entire bankruptcy procedure.
- **Fairness to All Parties:** All parties involved in insolvency cases, including creditors, debtors, employees, and shareholders, have their rights safeguarded by the NCLT.

#### 5. Maintaining the Interests of Stakeholders

- **Protecting Minority Shareholders:** The NCLT helps to protect minority shareholders' interests by giving them a platform to file complaints about unfair treatment or poor management.
- **Protecting Creditors:** The Tribunal makes sure that creditors in bankruptcy cases get a fair portion of the assets and that their claims are treated fairly.
- **Taking Employee Rights into Account:** During business restructuring or liquidation procedures, the NCLT also guarantees that workers receive fair treatment.

#### 6. Encouraging Corporate Reorganization

- **Managing Mergers and Acquisitions:** The NCLT is crucial in monitoring mergers, demergers, and amalgamations, making sure that these procedures adhere to the law and safeguard the interests of all parties involved.
- **Encouraging Growth:** The NCLT assists companies in expanding and adjusting to

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<sup>15</sup> Testbook. (2025). National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) - Functions, Powers & More!

shifting market conditions by providing a clear and efficient framework for corporate restructuring.

All things considered, the NCLT's creation is a significant step toward improving corporate governance and fostering an environment in India that is more effective and conducive to business.

### **NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL'S PART IN DISPUTE RESOLVING:**

In India, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is essential to the resolution of many business-related issues. It serves as the central authority in situations involving disputes emerging under the Companies Act of 2013. This comprises:

- Issues with corporate governance
- Conflicts over shareholder rights
- Instances of mismanagement, tyranny, or misbehavior by directors
- Issues about business restructuring, demergers, and mergers
- Closing of businesses

#### **1. Authorizing Demergers, Mergers, and Restructuring**

The NCLT is in charge of corporate restructuring procedures, such as amalgamations, demergers, and mergers. It guarantees that:

- Everyone's rights and interests are safeguarded, including creditors and minority shareholders.
- All legal regulations and procedures are appropriately followed; and
- The process is transparent and equitable.

#### **2. Addressing Insolvency and Bankruptcy**

In compliance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016, the NCLT is the primary

body in charge of handling corporate insolvency proceedings. Among its primary responsibilities are:

- Initiating bankruptcy proceedings
- Designating resolution experts
- Overseeing the whole insolvency process
- Approving bidders' resolution plans
- Ordering liquidation if the business cannot be revived
- Ensuring the timely and effective completion of the process

### **3. Preventing Mismanagement and Oppression**

Minority shareholders are protected by the NCLT when the majority mismanages the business or engages in unfair conduct. It can:

- Order a probe into how the firm is being run
- Remove the existing management if necessary
- Reorganise or restructure the corporation to defend shareholder interests

### **4. Handling Complaints**

Additionally, the NCLT offers a platform for:

- Depositors should file complaints regarding nonpayment or fraudulent deposit schemes.
- Creditors to handle problems about outstanding business debts<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Sharma, N. (2025, May 5). Addressing grievances and complaints under IBC. Tranzission

## 5. Upholding Directives and Guaranteeing Adherence

To ensure that its directives are obeyed, the NCLT has a number of powers. It can:

- Call individuals and make sure they show up before the tribunal
- Request case-related documents and records
- Issue various orders depending on the circumstances
- Penalize noncompliance

The NCLT contributes significantly to the effective resolution of business disputes by:

- Offering a single platform: It eliminates complexity and delays by combining various company conflict procedures into one location.
- Increasing efficiency: The NCLT strives to swiftly settle cases, particularly those involving the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Ensuring expert decisions: Its members possess both technical and legal experience, which results in more informed and superior decisions.
- Stakeholder interests are protected: It defends the rights of shareholders, creditors, employees, and depositors.
- Encouraging a business-friendly atmosphere: Its transparent and effective dispute resolution process boosts investor confidence and makes conducting business in India easier.<sup>17</sup>

## CONCLUSION:

The National Company Law Tribunal's establishment was a difficult and drawn-out procedure. What began as a 1999 reform proposal turned into one of the biggest structural adjustments to India's corporate legal framework. By examining worldwide corporate governance models,

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<sup>17</sup> Dharshani, M. B. (2024). Analysis of NCLT's Role in Resolving Corporate Disputes. *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities*, 7(5), 917–929. <https://doi.org/10.10000/IJLMH.118333> ijlmh.com



assessing India's current systems, and identifying the loopholes impeding prompt and efficient corporate dispute resolution, the Eradi Committee played a crucial part in this process. Its suggestions set the stage for a more specialized, efficient, and unified system that could handle the increasing complexity of business activities in a globalizing market.

An important turning point was the official establishment of the NCLT and NCLAT in 2016. These tribunals were given a wide range of tasks, including business law disputes, bankruptcy and insolvency cases, mergers and amalgamations, and even some competition-related concerns. This consolidation reduced fragmentation and provided a more cohesive and predictable adjudicatory procedure by bringing several functions under one institutional umbrella. Additionally, it greatly reduced the workload for High Courts, which had been burdened by a large caseload and protracted procedures.

Concerns regarding the NCLT's capacity to handle the consistent increase in submissions persist despite these encouraging advances. Its efficiency is still being challenged by heavy workloads, gaps in the infrastructure, open positions, and the need for technical advancements. However, it's crucial to acknowledge the scope and intricacy of the duties assigned to the Tribunal. No system can work flawlessly from the beginning, especially one that handles complex and varied business issues. The NCLT has the ability to operate even more efficiently with the correct assistance and further strengthening, as demonstrated by the progress accomplished thus far.

Overall, the establishment of the NCLT represents a transformative and forward-looking step for India. It reflects a commitment to faster dispute resolution, improved corporate governance, and a modern regulatory framework that aligns with international best practices. While improvement is an ongoing process, The Tribunal's role in lowering judicial backlogs and improving corporate dispute resolution effectiveness is both significant and commendable. Institutions like the NCLT will continue to be essential to maintaining accountability, openness, and trust in the corporate sector as India's economy grows. Its creation marks a significant advancement in India's efforts to create a more resilient, adaptable, and business-friendly regulatory framework, in addition to being a legal reform.