The Death Penalty Directory Information Sheet was compiled by Project 39A. It records the trends in death penalty decisions in the year 2019: the number of death sentences imposed by trial courts in 2019 and the number of cases decided by the High Courts and Supreme Court involving death sentences. The information was collected throughout the year 2019 and compiled on January 1 2020. This was done towards the publication of the Annual Statistics Reports 2019 that analyses the trends in the death penalty in India 2019. It was collected by tracking news reports and court websites for any updates on the death penalty in India.

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### **News Reports**

In order to regularly track updates in death sentences, we use Google Alerts to scrape news on the death penalty and check these daily for any updates. This method is necessary for trial court death sentences, since there is no reliable way to check if a death sentence was given by a trial court using the E-Courts website without prior information about the case. We use the following phrases as search keywords:

*acquit death penalty; acquit death sentence; black warrant; capital cases; capital punishment; capital sentence; commutation; commute death penalty; commute death sentence; death penalty; death row; death sentence; death warrant; execution; fansi ki saza (for Hindi news); mercy petition; mercy plea; mrityu dand (for Hindi news); phansi ki saza (for Hindi news); sentenced to death*

### **E-Courts System**

District Court Websites

Based on information from news reports on death sentences imposed by trial courts (specifically on the date of judgment, district and name of the judge) the district court websites are used to locate any judgments that have been uploaded online. These are checked regularly, in case the judgments are uploaded at a later point of time.

High Court Websites

All death sentences imposed by trial courts require confirmation by the High Court. Therefore, nearly all High Courts have a special case type for death sentences, which is used to track death sentences imposed by trial courts (since a case will necessarily be filed) and locate High Court judgements. These websites are not always updated regularly or immediately, but this method serves as a confirmation of the information on death sentences recorded using news reports. It also helps track the limited cases that do not receive media attention.

### **Right to Information Requests**

We file requests under the Right to Information Act, 2005 that help with information that may not be available using the above methods (such as on mercy petitions) and to confirm the data compiled. These requests are filed to two departments: the prison department (if this is not available, then the home department) and the Governor’s Secretariat. However, we have rarely received information that was not already compiled using news reports and the e-Courts system.